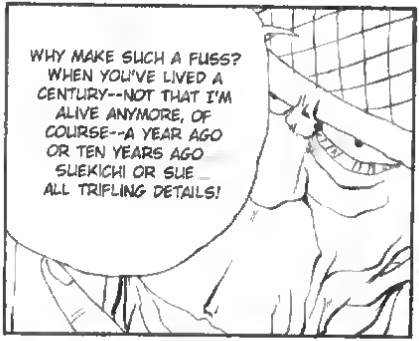
ACT FIFTY-TWO

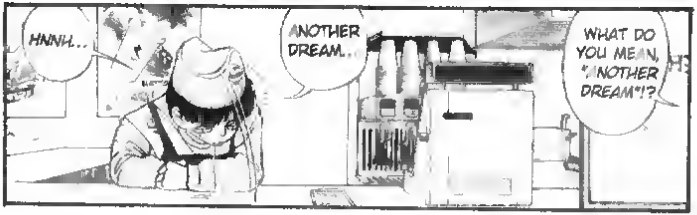
HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE

YOU CALLED?
THIS IS QUITE AN HONOR. YOU NEVER CALL FOR ME!
Y--YEAH YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO SMUG ABOUT IT, THOUGH
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO ACTUALLY SHOW UP ANYWAY
I JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, THAT'S ALL!
DID YOU REALLY MEAN TO WILL YOUR INHERITANCE TO ME? I HADN'T EVEN SEEN YOU SINCE I WAS LITTLE
MAYBE AFTER YOU GOT A LITTLE SOFT IN THE HEAD, YOU MIXED ME UP WITH THAT GIRL--SUE
YOU'RE SPENDING NEW YEAR'S SHOOTING THE BREEZE WITH A GHOST?
BOY, YOU REALLY DO NEED A LIFE!
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME!

RELAAAX JUST GO AHEAD AND TAKE THE MONEY.
WHAT KIND OF AN ANSWER IS THAT? THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE REALLY A GHOST OR JUST A DREAM!
PROVE YOU'RE A GHOST! TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW I WANT THIS CLEARED UP, ONCE AND FOR ALL!


WHY MAKE SUCH A FUSS? WHEN YOU'VE LIVED A CENTURY--NOT THAT I'M ALIVE ANYMORE, OF COURSE--A YEAR AGO OR TEN YEARS AGO SUEKICHI OR SUE ALL TRIFLING DETAILS!

HOLD ON! I NEED TO--
WHAT'S THE DIF'? DON'T MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL


HNNH...
ANOTHER DREAM...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ANOTHER DREAM"!?

JUST BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SHIRK YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!
I-- I'M SORRY
I'M LEAVING YOU IN CHARGE WHILE WE VISIT THE SHRINE I'M PAYING YOU OVERTIME FOR WORKING NEW YEAR'S
YES, THANK YOU.
-PHEW-
"HAPPY NEW YEAR"... YEAH, RIGHT.
OFF TO A GREAT START... STANDING BEHIND A COUNTER IN AN EMPTY FAST-FOOD JOINT ALL DAY
HAPPY NEW YEAR, SUEKICHI!
POSITIONS AVAILABLE
HOURLY WAGE: ¥650 TO ¥750
FLEXIBLE HOURS
APPLICANTS APPLY WITHIN
TAKAMURA BUILDER

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT STUCK WORKING NEW YEAR'S!
I GET PAID OVERTIME AND THERE'S NOTHING TO DO
TILL WHEN?
THE NEXT SHIFT COMES IN AT 8.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME FOR A NEW YEAR'S MEAL?
HUH ?
I MADE WAY TOO MUCH
AND MY FATHER'S AWAY, AS USUAL.
BUT...
HEY
YOU HAVE PLANS?
WELL, I, UHH..
ZUP

THE STORMY WEATHER JUST WON'T LET UP... GUESS OUR FATHER-AND-SON REUNION IS EXTENDED YET ANOTHER DAY!
S-SORRY ABOUT THIS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I MADE WAY TOO MUCH ANYWAY.
I'M GETTING PRETTY TIRED OF THAT HOTEL. IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS NOW!
LIGHTEN UP, DAD
SO YOU'RE DUMPING THAT OTHER GIRL FOR TRUE LOVE?
DON'T PUT WORDS INTO MY MOUTH!
'SCUSE ME?
NEVER MIND!
MY, ISN'T THIS DELICIOUS!?
I'LL GET YOU SECONDS
I'M WARNING YOU, SUEKICHI — LOVE IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT IN THE END, WHAT REALLY COUNTS...
...IS WHETHER YOU ENJOY MEALS TOGETHER, AND HOW COMFORTABLE SHE MAKES YOU FEEL. THAT'S THE SECRET OF A HAPPY UNION.

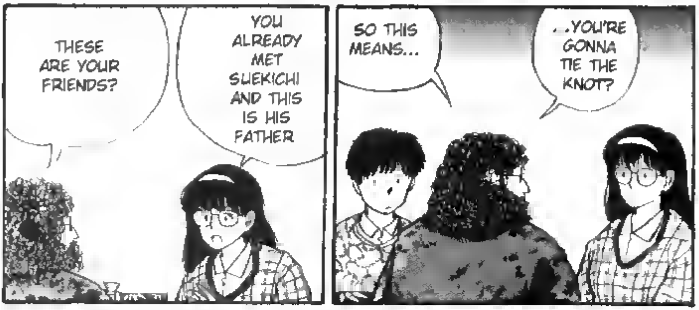
ZZZ
IT'S SNOWING.
HUH?
KRNCH
IT SNOWS MORE IN THE SUBURBS THAN IN THE CITY.
WHY AM I TELLING YOU THIS?

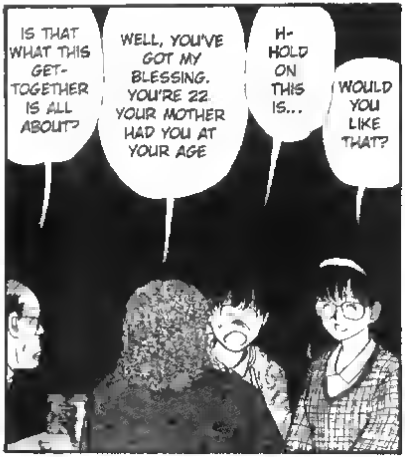
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO THE SHRINE WITH YOU GUYS? I'M NOT A TROUPE MEMBER!
OH, COME ON! YOU WANT GO!
WHO PUTS THE "HAPPY" IN "NEW YEAR"?
HEY! YOU LOOK FAMILIAR.
WHO'RE YOU?
THE DAUGHTER OF THE HOSTS OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WHERE YOU GUZZLED ALL THAT FREE SAKÉ.
OH, REALLY? WELL, NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. LATER...
MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

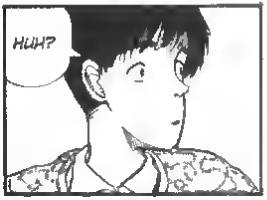
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SUEKICHI, AREN'T YOU? I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR HIM.
COME ON... TAKE PITY ON A POOR, LITTLE, RICH GIRL WHOSE PARENTS LOVE FILTHY LUCRE MORE THAN THEIR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!

I WAS IN SOUTH AMERICA FOR TWO MONTHS.

DO YOU WORK IN IMPORT-EXPORT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
...
FATHER! I WISH YOU'D CALL FIRST...

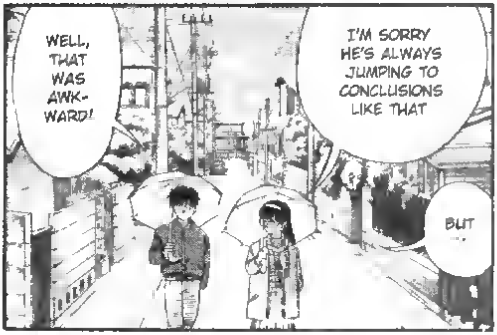

THESE ARE YOUR FRIENDS?
YOU ALREADY MET SUEKICHI AND THIS IS HIS FATHER
SO THIS MEANS...
...YOU'RE GONNA TIE THE KNOT?


IS THAT WHAT THIS GET-TOGETHER IS ALL ABOUT?
WELL, YOU'VE GOT MY BLESSING. YOU'RE 22. YOUR MOTHER HAD YOU AT YOUR AGE
H-HOLD ON THIS IS...
WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?


HUH?

OH, DEAR! TIME TO GO!
SUEKICHI, WE BETTER GET A MOVE ON.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. TAKE YOUR TIME.


WELL, THAT WAS AWK-WARD!
I'M SORRY HE'S ALWAYS JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS LIKE THAT
BUT...

"BUT"—?
WE BETTER HURRY UP!

FRESH COFFEE
OTATO CHIPS
NOT HERE.
COME ON — NO ONE WILL KNOW!
OH! TIME TO GO!
HUH ..?
Big Cu
Rame
IT'S STOPPED SNOWING..

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YOU'RE LATE.

WHO'S THIS?
MR. ITO. A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER.
YOUR DIRECTOR WAS KIND ENOUGH TO INVITE ME

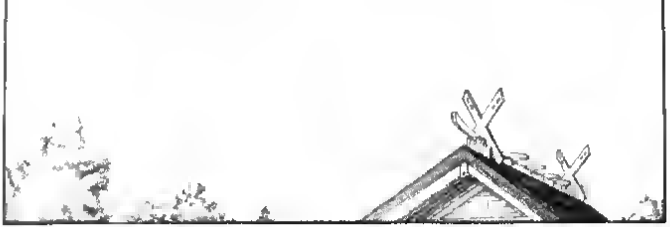
SUEKICHI CAME WITH MIYUKI, Y'KNOW.
SO?

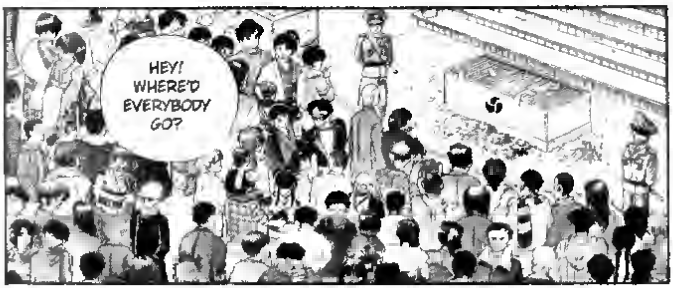
HOW CAN ANYONE SAY "HAPPY NEW YEAR"?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU'RE THE LIKELIEST SUSPECT! YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH YOUR DAD AND THAT TACHIMI GUY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

WHY DO YOU KEEP PESTERING ME!?
WHY ARE YOU RAISING YOUR VOICE? DO I MAKE YOU NERVOUS?

AND NOW YOU'VE GONE ALL QUIET! GUILTY CONSCIENCE?
THIS WAY.




HEY! WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

WE LOST THEM
GOOD NOW WE CAN GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE SECRET INHERITANCE SPILL IT!
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
BUT TACHIMI DOES..
SO WHAT IF HE DOES?
OOPS
YOU'RE ALREADY STARTING TO SLIP-UP!

WHERE'D EVERY-BODY GO?
...
YOU DON'T LIKE ME MUCH, DO YOU, AYA?
WHY D'YOU SAY THAT? JUST BECAUSE WE AREN'T HAVING A HEART-TO-HEART GIRL TALK?
YEAH, I'M PISSED OFF AT YOU!
YOU'RE STILL WORKING FOR TACHIMI...
.. AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO PRETEND YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SUEKICHI!
I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM.

I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH SUEKICHI.

WE LOST 'EM.
APPEARS SO..

HEY ..YOU LOOK PRETTY SEXY IN A KIMONO, MS. SHIMOMURA!
COULDN'T YOU GET SOMETHING NEW FOR NEW YEAR'S? YOU'VE BEEN WEARING THAT SAME OUTFIT FOR 10 YEARS!

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START ACTING YOUR AGE?

I WAS TOO BUSY TO CHANGE HAD TO START THE NEW YEAR WITH A "BANG," IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT.

AYA-A-A-A!
UHH S-SALAM ALEIKUM. IS THAT RIGHT?

OVER HERE!
WHERE WERE YOU?
LOOKING FOR YOU GUYS.
...AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT
WHERE'S MUNA-KATA?
HE HAS WITH-DRAWN.
WHAT?
NOW THAT AYA HIBINO HAS UNCOVERED THE TRUTH, THERE'S NO POINT IN HIS FURTHER IN-VOLVEMENT
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
NOW WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON SEPARATING SUEKICHI FROM AYA!
TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE till TOMORROW

ACT FIFTY-THREE
MAKING A MOVE

English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Translation by BEN JOE WADOKO
Lettering & Touch Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

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HE'S MOVING?

HE BORROWED THE MONEY FROM HIS FATHER FOR THE DEPOSIT

IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE KINDERGARTEN WHERE AYA WORKS

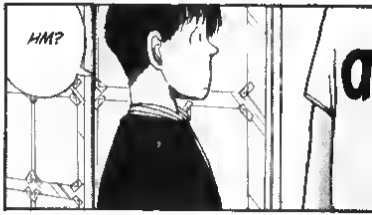
IT'S NEAR MY HOUSE-- BY THE RIVER.

WELL, IT CERTAINLY SEEMS AS IF HE'S DETACHING FROM AYA ...
PERHAPS THE WIND IS BLOWING IN OUR FAVOR NOW!

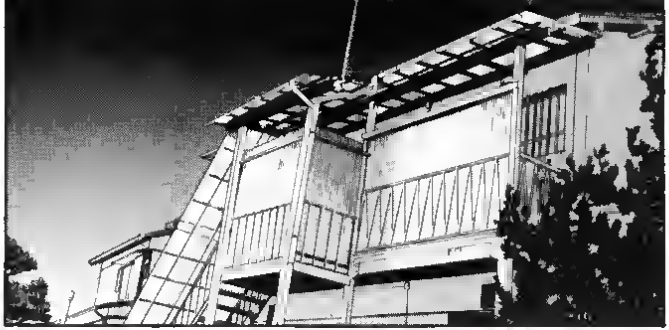
SIGN HERE.. AND THERE
REAL ESTATE

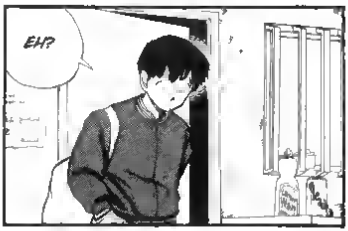
SO I CAN MOVE IN TOMORROW?

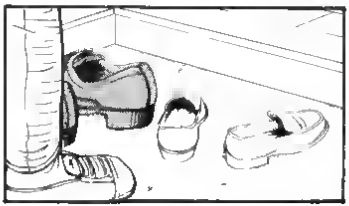
YOU BETTER CHECK WITH YOUR LANDLORD FIRST.
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

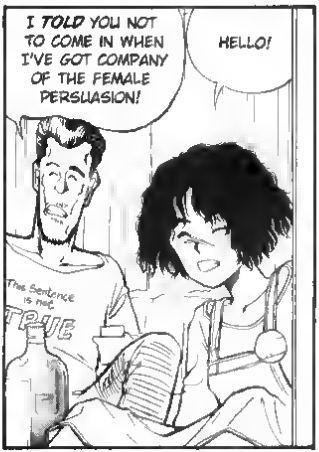

HM?

YO.
FREDDY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I LOOK FOR APART-MENT TOO.
AYA'S MAKING YOU SPY ON ME, HUH?
NO! JUST LUCK. THIS NEAR THUNDER BURGER
HOW MUCH IS SHE PAYING YOU?
DID YOU BORROW THE DEPOSIT FROM AYA?
I SAY I NEED MONEY AND SHE LOAN ME
WHAT A SUCKER...
BYE-BYE!




EH?




I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME IN WHEN I'VE GOT COMPANY OF THE FEMALE PERSUASION!
HELLO!
This Sentence is not TRUE

GO HOME!
HEY, THIS ISN'T YOUR PLACE! YOU'RE JUST A GUEST HERE TOO, FREELOADER!
SHE'S GOT A POINT THERE, COLLEGE BOY!
This Sentence is not

AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS MUCH LONGER.
WHAT WAS THAT?
NOTHING
I KNOW YOU FOUND A PLACE!
WHAT? HOW?
FREDDY TOLD ME
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BROKE.
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
DAMN YOU, FREDDY!
HOW COULD YOU!? CHEATING A HARD-WORKING, HONEST TEACHER OUT OF THE FEW PENNIES SHE SCRAPED TOGETHER...
WHAT'TA CREEP!
This sentence is not TRUE
OH, YEAH? YOU STILL OWE ME ¥ 1,141,232.
I-I'LL PAY YOU BACK...
IS IT REALLY THAT MUCH?

I'M GOING TO BED.
HE'S ESCAPING!
ZHOP
AT LAST WE ARE ALONE!
WHAT NOW?
HOW ABOUT THIS?
AHHH! NO, NOT THERE!
HOW ABOUT THIS THEN?
OHH, PLEASE! I CAN'T STAND IT!
I GUESS HE'S ASLEEP.
LET'S DO IT FOR REAL, THEN!
TIME TO GO.
AWW, COME ON..
SEE YA.

WOW!
IT'S CERTAINLY GOT THAT AUTHENTIC SHABBY "MAISON IKKOKU" BOARDING HOUSE LOOK!
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT
THIS WAS THE EASIEST MOVE YET--JUST ONE BOX AND ONE FUTON!
I HEAR YOU BORROWED THE FUTON FROM MIYUKI...
NICE PLACE!
MY WORDS EXACTLY.
HI.

MIYUKI'S PICKING UP SOME SAKE.
THAT'S NICE OF HER.
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS HOUSEWARMING GIFT.
OH, TH-THANK YOU.
PLINK
WHAT A REALISTIC PROP!
UM, YEAH ..
WOW! IT'S HEAVY!
YOU'VE STILL GOT THIS?
LET'S USE IT IN OUR NEXT PLAY!
I'M KEEPING IT FOR SOMEONE
IT MAY BE AS CRAMPED AS MY OLD PLACE...
.. BUT I'VE GOT A GUT FEELING I'LL BE ABLE TO START MY LIFE ANEW IN THIS AUSPICIOUS SETTING!
OH, GIVE IT UP.

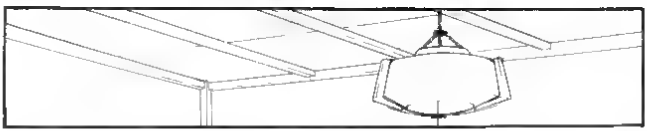
CONGRATS ON YOUR MOVE!
WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
FREDDY'S MOVING INTO THIS BUILDING 'CAUSE IT'S SO CLOSE TO THUNDER BURGER.
I KNEW YOU WERE BEHIND THIS!
I TELL REALTOR YOU MY GOOD FRIEND AND SHE SHOW ME ROOM NEAR YOU ROOM.
VERY NICE LADY!
APPAR-ENTLY.

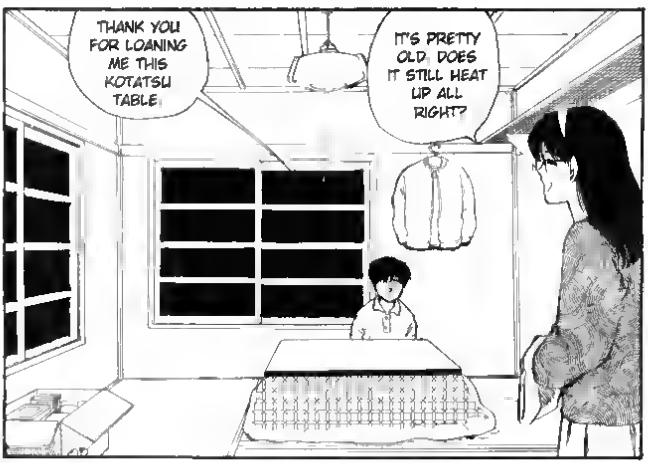
A TOAST TO SUEKICHI AND FREDDY'S MOVE!
CHEERS!!!
WOW! THIS APARTMENT'S NICER. BIGGER-- PLUS THE BUILDING'S MADE OF CONCRETE.
SO WHAT IF I LIVE IN A WOODEN BUILDING? AND THAT I HAVE TO SHARE THE TOILET I DON'T MIND. AND I DON'T NEED A BATH!
IT'S NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS AS NEIGHBORS, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE DROPPING BY ALL THE TIME AGAIN, ARE YOU?
HUH?
YADDA YADDA YADDA. THIS CONVERSATION'S UNBEARABLE. COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE BORING?
ALWAYS THE CRITIC!

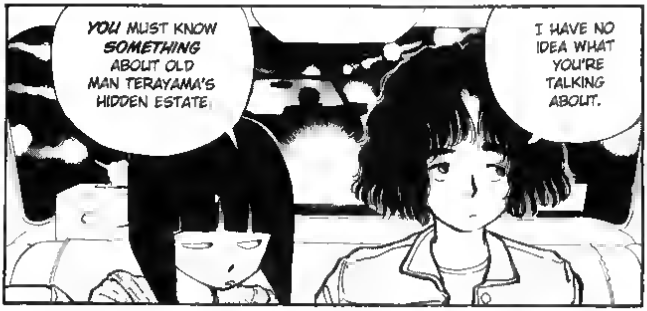
DON'T PRETEND YOU JUST NOTICED ME. THAT'S A DIRTY GROWNUP TRICK!
BY THE WAY, I'M SUE'S BOYFRIEND.
I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME.
I WON'T ASK WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT.
ANOTHER OBSTACLE.
AYA, YOU WERE WONDER-FUL IN OUR PLAY!
OH, THANKS! YOU'RE MAKING ME HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT NOT JOINING.
SHE'S TOO BUSY.
AREN'T YOU RECRUIT-ING?
WE NEED QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY!
YOUR TROUPE NEEDS MORE MEMBERS?
DON'T IGNORE MY SUE!
YES, I'M CONTACTING--
...
I DON'T TRUST HIM. .
MAYBE I'LL JOIN.

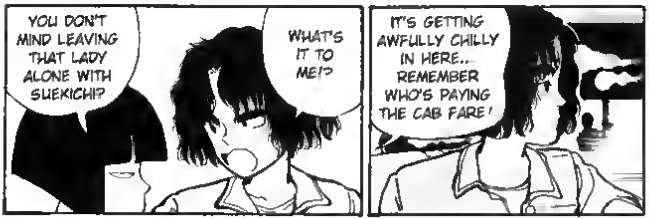
HUH?
AM I TOO YOUNG?
IF YOU'RE WILLING AND ABLE, YOU'RE WELCOME
YOU'RE STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT DEMANDS---
I TOLD YOU, I'M IN JUNIOR HIGH!
YOU'RE SAYING A POOR LITTLE GIRL ABANDONED BY HER PARENTS DOESN'T DESERVE A CHANCE AT HAPPINESS THROUGH THE DRAMATIC ARTS?
IF SHE JOINS, I JOIN!
A TOAST TO SUE AND HER BOYFRIEND JOINING THE TROUPE!
H-HEY...
I JUST WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE, BABY!
GO 'WAY.
KLAP! KLAP! KLAP!

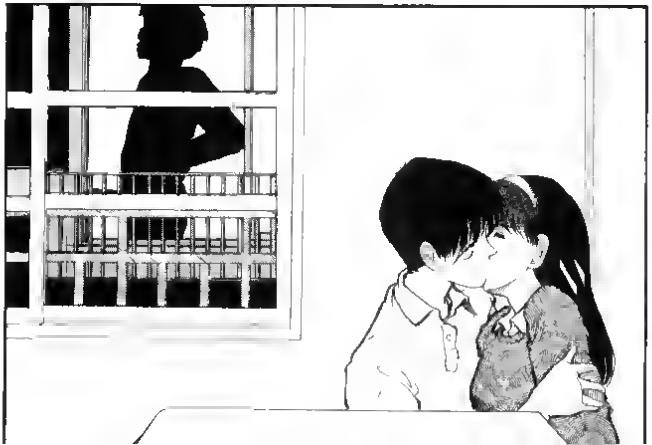
THE ONLY THING MY PARENTS GIVE ME IS MONEY-- SO WE'RE TAKING A CAB HOME.
SPOILED BRAT
MIND IF I JOIN YOU?




THANK YOU FOR LOANING ME THIS KOTATSU TABLE.
IT'S PRETTY OLD. DOES IT STILL HEAT UP ALL RIGHT?


YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT OLD MAN TERAYAMA'S HIDDEN ESTATE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.


YOU DON'T MIND LEAVING THAT LADY ALONE WITH SUEKICHI?
WHAT'S IT TO ME!?
IT'S GETTING AWFULLY CHILLY IN HERE... REMEMBER WHO'S PAYING THE CAB FARE!



SO AYA IS IN PROXIMITY TO SUEKICHI AGAIN?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY.. BUT FREDDY--WHO WAS STAYING AT AYA'S PLACE--IS LIVING NEXT DOOR TO HIM NOW!
AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM?
WELL...
MIYUKI..
ARE YOU WILLING TO MARRY SUEKICHI?
TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT FIFTY-FOUR

NIDK (NO INCOME, DOUBLE KIDS)

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

English Adaptation by ANNI[illegible]
Translation by BEN[illegible]
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN[illegible]

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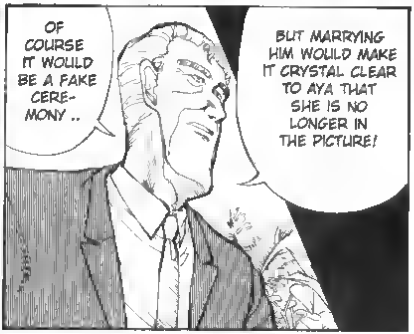
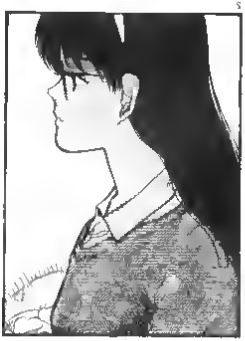
"MARRY SUEKICHI!"? YOU MEAN IT..?


OF COURSE IT WOULD BE A FAKE CERE-MONY..
BUT MARRYING HIM WOULD MAKE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR TO AYA THAT SHE IS NO LONGER IN THE PICTURE!

NATURALLY, YOU WILL BE COMPENSATED ACCORDINGLY. THIS WILL BE A BONUS FOR YOU.
AFTER ALL.. YOU NEED THE MONEY



BUT . WHAT IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO MARRY ME?
THERE ARE WAYS . . .
. . TO CONVINCE A MAN
CHA-HA-HA!
MORE BEER!

YAPS
FREDDY CERTAINLY HAS A LOT OF VISITORS...
HAR HAR HAR
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVERY DAY...
AH
AHH
Fapp fapp fapp
IAN
THE LONG-PROMISED PANEL!
IT'S OKAY I'M SAFE TODAY

HEY, AYA! NO BEER LEFT!
BLAH YADDA YADDA BLAH
I'M BROKE.
HAHAHA
GUESS SUEKICHI WILL HAVE TO SAVE THE DAY
HEY, SUE-KICHI! I NEED YOU...
...TO BUY SOME BEER! PRONTO!
T-POOP
DON'T YOU IGNORE ME! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
SO RE
MAYBE HE NOT HOME?
GRMP
WE'LL SEE..!
RISE AND SHINE, SUEKICHI! WAKEY-WAKEY!
KRSH!

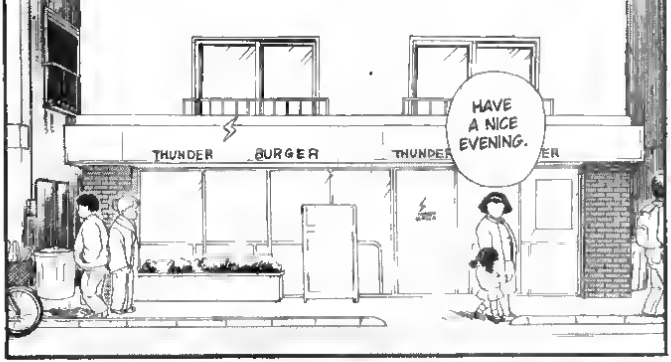
OOPS.
TINK
TINK
TINK
ZHOOP
THAT'S ENOUGH, AYA!
HEY! YOU TWO WERE DOIN' THE NASTY, WEREN'T YOU?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
BETCHA DON'T HAVE ANY UNDERWEAR ON!
SHE'S RIGHT!→
GOT ANY BEER?
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL SETTLE FOR CASH.
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN PAID YET...
I HAVE SOME MONEY

THANKS HOPE I DIDN'T RUIN YOUR EVENING.
OH, NOT AT ALL THIS IS FUN.
YOU DON'T MIND EVEN A LITTLE...?
DON'T WORRY. YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME.
I DON'T CARE GO RIGHT AHEAD AND TELL SUEKICHI
YOU BETTER PAY FOR THAT WINDOW!
I JUST TAPPED IT!
YOU PARTY WITH THESE GUYS EVERY NIGHT?
THEY'RE FUN.
FREDDY, YOU'RE SQUANDERING YOUR MONEY! WHAT ABOUT YOUR DREAMS?
FUN TIME FOR ALL MAKE ME STRONG!
RE-LAX! SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET SO UPTIGHT?

DAMN IT. THEY'RE INVADING MY PRIVACY!
IT WASN'T SO BAD I HAD A NICE TIME
BY THE WAY ..
YEAH?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU...
I'M...
OH, NEVER MIND
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY TONIGHT.
tee hee
MAYBE I'M A LITTLE TIPSY...
I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU!
ME TOO...
SO...
...SHOULD WE GET MARRIED?
I'M SORRY.. I MUST BE DRUNK...
WHAT IF I TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY?
?

I MUST BE DRUNK TOO.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
WHERE'D SUEKICHI GO?
Blink! Blink!
HE TAKE MIYUKI HOME.
.. ...
... ...
WHASSA MATTER?
BAM
HMM..

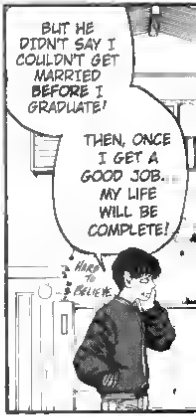

THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER
HAVE A NICE EVENING.

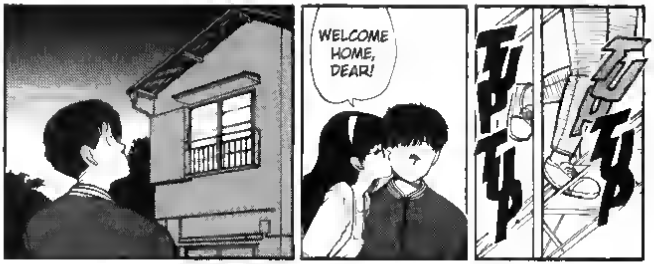
MARRIAGE ...OUT OF THE BLUE...

WELCOME HOME, DEAR!

I COULD BE ONE OF THOSE MARRIED STUDENTS!

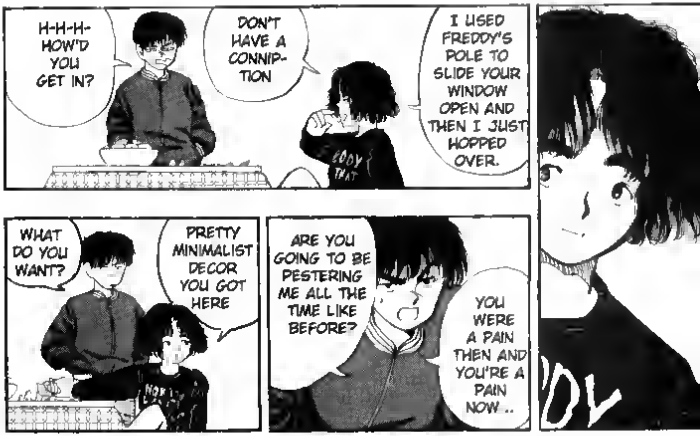
YOU CAN'T RECEIVE YOUR INHERITANCE UNTIL YOU GRADUATE COLLEGE ..
. .FIND A JOB, AND GET MARRIED.


BUT HE DIDN'T SAY I COULDN'T GET MARRIED BEFORE I GRADUATE!
THEN, ONCE I GET A GOOD JOB... MY LIFE WILL BE COMPLETE!
HARD TO BELIEVE.


WELCOME HOME, DEAR!
TUTUTU
TUTUTU

YOU'RE HERE--!

WEL-COME HOME, DEAR!
NOT.
NOBO KNOW THIS SENTE IS TRUE


H-H-H-HOW'D YOU GET IN?
DON'T HAVE A CONNIP-TION
I USED FREDDY'S POLE TO SLIDE YOUR WINDOW OPEN AND THEN I JUST HOPPED OVER.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
PRETTY MINIMALIST DECOR YOU GOT HERE
ARE YOU GOING TO BE PESTERING ME ALL THE TIME LIKE BEFORE?
YOU WERE A PAIN THEN AND YOU'RE A PAIN NOW..

I THINK I'M PREG-NANT.
GUESS WHAT?
NOBODY

YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSION IT'S EASY ON THE ARTIST, BUT YOU'LL BORE THE READERS.
AW, COME ON! YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
DA-
DDY
W-W-W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
I'M GONNA HAVE A BABY.
S-STOP SCARFING THAT TANGERINE LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, ANYWAY. YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING THINGS UP TO TORTURE ME.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D BE IN DENIAL.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER, AT FIRST I WONDER WHEN IT WAS CONCEIVED ..
THE LAST TIME WE DID IT WITHOUT PROTECTION WAS THREE MONTHS AGO, RIGHT?
BUT I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU SHOULD BE SUSPICIOUS OF RIGHT NOW .
WELL, I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL YOU.
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE YOU ..
I KNOW THIS SOUNDS LIKE A TRICK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
IT'S ME-- MIYUKI!
NOK NOK
YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR.

ON YOUR WAY OUT?
NO, I JUST GOT IN
WHAT'S UP?
WOOP
I..
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN MY PERIOD FOR A WHILE..
DADDY x2!
NICE MOVE...
TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT FIFTY-FIVE
FATHER OF TWO

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Translation by BEN JOE WADOKO
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

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ACTUALLY...
I DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN...

I'M SORRY I REALIZE THIS MUST BE A BIG SHOCK...
PIP

H-HAVE YOU SEEN A DOCTOR?
PINHOLE CAMERA
NOT YET BUT MY PERIOD'S LATE...

I'M SORRY! I JUST COULDN'T KEEP IT TO MYSELF!
ta-
Tump

I-IT'S GETTING LATE

DON'T WORRY I'M NOT UPSET
I'M HERE FOR YOU. I PROMISE

TAKE CARE
WANT ME TO WALK YOU OUT?
THAT'S OKAY.
OKAY
HOW TOUCH-ING....
"I'M NOT UPSET," HUH?
NOBODY

NO WAY IS SHE PREGNANT PROBABLY JUST CAUGHT A COLD OR SOMETHING.
I MEAN, SHE JUST ISN'T THE MOMMY TYPE...HEY--MAYBE SHE'S REALLY A GOLD-DIGGER AND THIS IS ALL AN ELABORATE SCHEME TO SNAG YOUR INHERITANCE!
SIGH...I'VE GOT IT!
IT'S ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR AYA!
GO HOME!
YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I WON'T HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE.
I'LL JUST MAKE DO AS A SINGLE MOM
NOBODY KNOWS THIS SECRET IS TRUE
I'LL TELL THE KID YOU WERE A MAN OF THE SEA...
SWALLOWED UP BY THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.
WHEN HAVE YOU EVER TOLD THE TRUTH!?
YOU'RE GETTING ME ALL RILED UP AS USUAL!
NOOOH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME

IT...
...IT COULD BE ANYONE'S.
NOBODY KNOWS THAT THIS SENTENCE
HOW DO I KNOW YOU WEREN'T SLEEPING WITH SOMEBODY ELSE?
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR BEING SUSPICIOUS. I ONLY KNOW TWO THINGS ABOUT YOU-- ONE, YOU WORK AT A DAYCARE CENTER, AND TWO, YOU'RE DIVORCED.
WHAT WAS THAT, YOU BASTARD!?
I MEAN, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A GIRL WHO'LL DO IT WITH A DRUNKEN STRANGER!
IS KOON YOUR TYPE?
LIKE FREDDY, FOR INSTANCE!
(REFER TO DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 1, AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE.)
HUH?

...YOU NEVER SAY TO A WOMAN!
THERE ARE SOME THINGS...
T-TEARS WON'T WORK...
..THIS TIME!
I'M CRYING BECAUSE I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVER GOT INVOLVED WITH A BASTARD LIKE YOU...
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME...
WAAAH!

KEEP IT DOWN! THE NEIGHBORS
...
NOBODY NOWSTHA
AIIIEEEEEE
SOBB
SOB
SOBB
SOB
SOB
SOBB
...
DON'T TOUCH ME
ON SECOND THOUGHT-- TOUCH ME

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX. IT ISN'T YOURS, RIGHT?

DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
SO YOU BELIEVE ME?

NO. BUT I STILL CARE ABOUT THAT IS...
YOU'RE RIGHT I'M JUST A TRAMP.
WELL, I'M GOING HOME.
NOBODY KNOWS

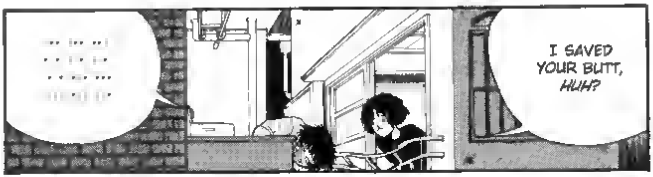
CHUD!

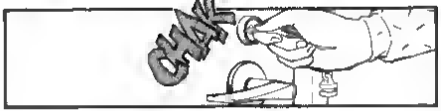
CHUD!
FORGET SOME-THING...?

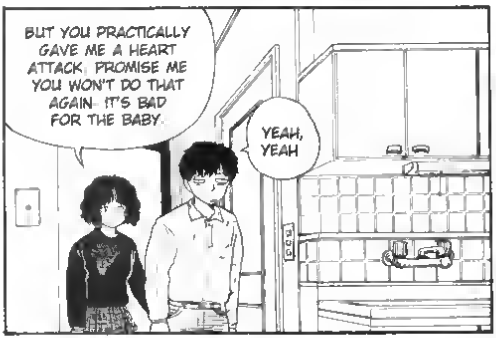
MORNING SICK-NESS..

I-IT'S FROM ALL THAT DRINKING. DRINKING EVERY NIGHT AT FREDDY'S.
I CAN'T GO HOME LIKE THIS!

THIS IS D/NGER-OUS..
A PREGNANT WOMAN SHOULDN'T DO THIS..
SO YOU DO BELIEVE ME!
NO, I DON'T! NOW JUST SHUT UP AND SIT TIGHT!
YOU'RE SO KIND AND COMPASSIONATE DEEP DOWN, I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME
AGH!
JUMP!
SHUV!
WAAA


I SAVED YOUR BUTT, HUH?


CHAK


BUT YOU PRACTICALLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK. PROMISE ME YOU WON'T DO THAT AGAIN. IT'S BAD FOR THE BABY.
YEAH, YEAH

WHOA!
FWP

HEY! WE'RE GONNA HAVE SEX, SO TAKE A HIKE, OKAY?

SHE'S JUST TAKING A BATH AND USING THE WASHER!!
CHUD

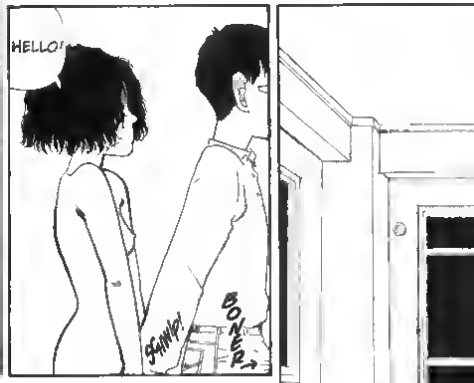
DON'T GET ALL HOT AND BOTHERED. I WAS ONLY JOSHING

FREDDY MUST HAVE FOUND THIS ON THE CURB..
WASHSH WASHSH
PLSH
HOW RELAXING! SUEKICHI, YOU SHOULD HAVE PAID EXTRA FOR A ROOM WITH A BATH!
YOU'VE GOT MORE SAVINGS THAN FREDDY, DON'T YOU?
CHAK
HE FOUND THIS FRIDGE AND STOVE IN THE TRASH, TOO FREDDY CALLS JAPAN "DREAMLAND."
YOUR CLOTHES ARE DRY.
HEY! YOU TRYING TO SEDUCE ME?
BUNK

YES
ENOUGH, ALREADY! QUIT TRYING TO PUSH MY BUTTONS!

SO YOU'RE FAITHFUL TO MIYUKI? MR. MONOGAMY, HUH?
DRINK-ING'S BAD FOR YOUR B BY.

WOW! YOU REALLY DO CARE!
FREDDY WON'T BE BACK TILL MORNING. WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO LOSE?
EVERY-THING


HELLO!
GAWP!
BONER

OH GOODIE!

KIND OF A TURN-ON.
—DOIN' IT AT SOMEBODY ELSE'S PLACE, HUH?
NO.

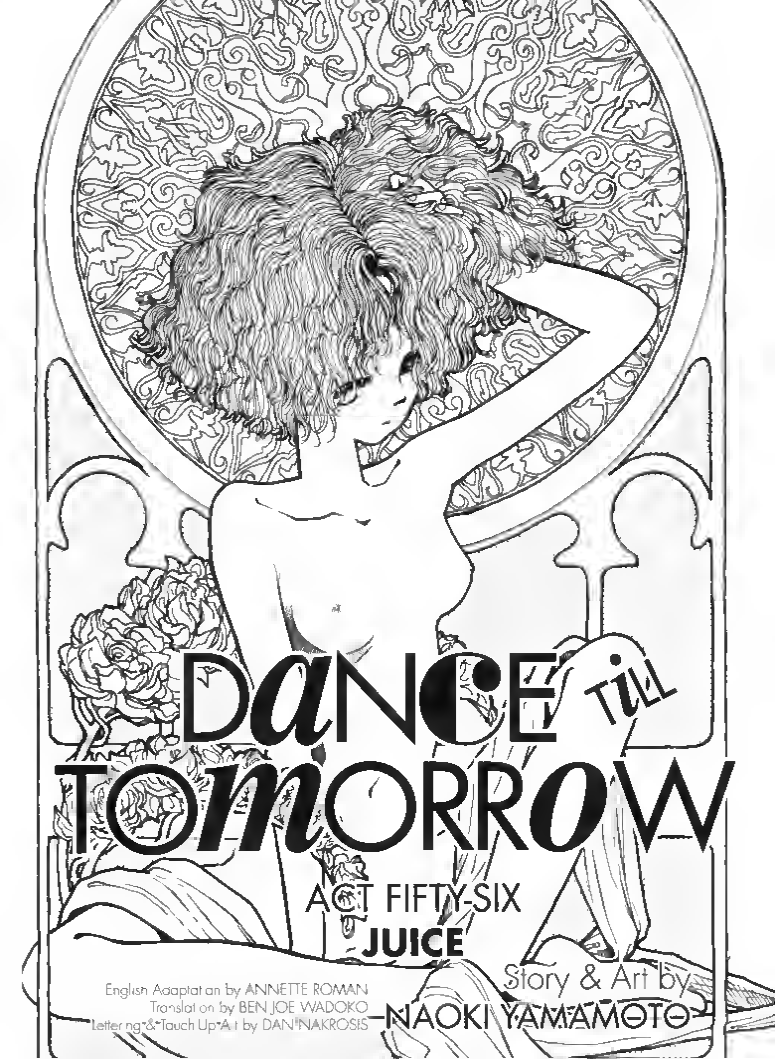
HOW ABOUT DOIN' IT WITH SOMEBODY ELSE, PERIOD?
..A LITTLE, MAYBE..

I'M PREGNANT ALREADY, SO YOU CAN COME INSIDE ME
I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT!

OOHH...

ahhhh!
METAPHOR
Plop
Plop
I BET YOU'RE THINKING YOU'RE A TOTAL SLIME BALL.
I KNOW
WELL... YOU ARE

LOOKIE, LOOKIE!!
ME TOO!
ARGH!
HERE!
HERE!
ZOOP
ZOOP
WELL, I'M OFF TO WORK, SO YOU WATCH THE KID!
SAME HERE!
UHH... HOW COME YOU'RE NURSING YOUR PILLOWS?
GOT NO CHOICE THEY'RE BOTH MINE.
HERE! HERE!
-SPHEW-
FWIPP
IF ONLY THIS WAS A DREAM TOO, SUEKICHI THOUGHT AS HE WOKE UP.
TO BE CONTINUED...



ACT FIFTY-SIX
JUICE

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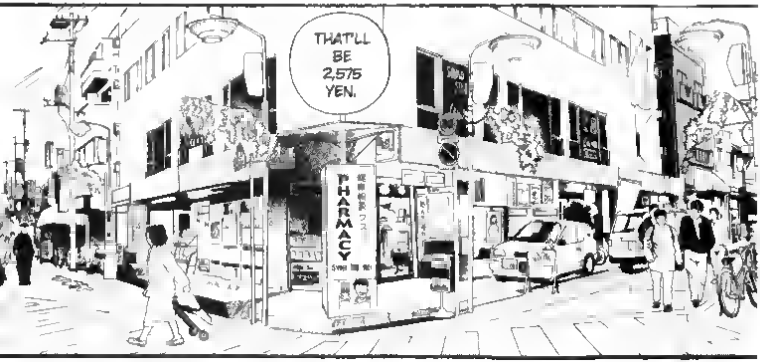
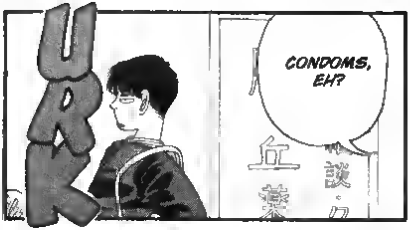
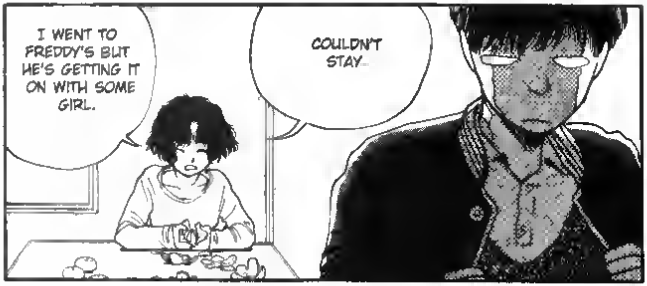

THAT'LL BE 2,575 YEN.
PHARMACY

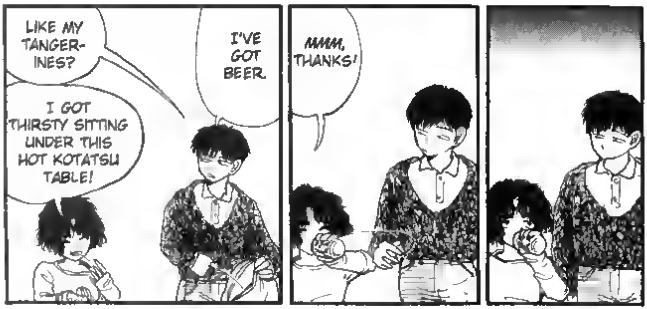
SOUND STUDIO
I'M SURE AYA'S LYING, BUT...
PRESCRIPTIONS

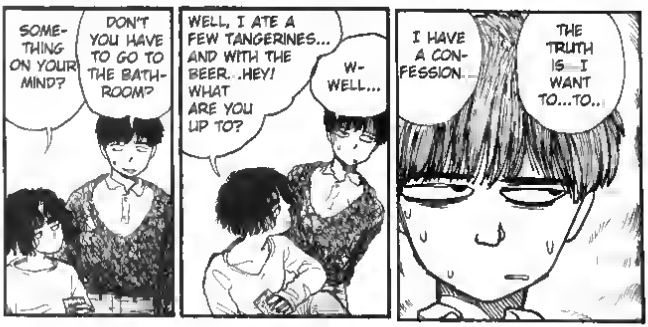

URK
CONDOMS, EH?

HEADING HOME?

WHATTA SEX FIEND! CAN'T DECIDE BETWEEN RIBBED OR TRIPLE-PLEASURE BUMPS?
I-I WASN'T BUYING CONDOMS.
WHY SO SNEAKY THEN?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
'SCUSE ME! ONE GALLON ULTRA-ENERGY, HIGH PERFORMANCE DRINK.
HELLO! I'M VISITING.
.....


I WENT TO FREDDY'S BUT HE'S GETTING IT ON WITH SOME GIRL.
COULDN'T STAY...

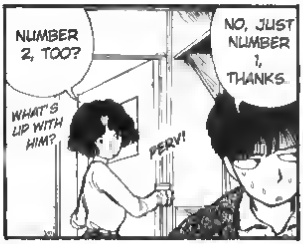

LIKE MY TANGERINES?
I'VE GOT BEER.
I GOT THIRSTY SITTING UNDER THIS HOT KOTATSU TABLE!
MMM, THANKS!


SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM?
WELL, I ATE A FEW TANGERINES... AND WITH THE BEER...HEY! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
W-WELL...
I HAVE A CONFESSION...
THE TRUTH IS...I WANT TO...TO...

...DRINK YOUR PEE!!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO WATER SPORTS.
WELL, WHATEVER TURNS YOU ON. DOESN'T SEEM VERY HYGIENIC, THOUGH.
D-DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS.

WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN...
GET ON YOUR KNEES!
N-NOT LIKE THAT!!


NUMBER 2, TOO?
NO, JUST NUMBER 1, THANKS.
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
PERV!

chik
FOOSH

HERE
TH-THANKS

DRINK UP!

I'M SHY. I'LL DO IT ALONE.
I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING!
HEY! WHAT JUST DROPPED OUT OF YOUR POCKET?
NOTHING
Pregnancy Test
NOW I GET IT!
IF THE TEST SAYS YOU'RE PREGNANT, I'LL BELIEVE YOU.
HUFF HUFF
ALL YOU HADDA DO IS ASK! I'LL TAKE THE TEST
SO TAKE IT, ALREADY.
THEY AREN'T RELIABLE ANYWAY.
FWNC
HEY! THAT COST OVER 2,500 YEN!!

ARE YOU FINISHED, FREDDY? HOW WAS IT?
JUST ONE PUSH..
AND GOODBYE PROBLEM..
YOU'VE GOTTA FIX THIS RAIL..
IT ISN'T SAFE..
HM?

WHATCHA DOING? MASSAGING MY PEE?
YEEARGH
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
HM?
READERS MAY RECALL (I DOUBT IT) THE PISTOL SUEKICHI'S YAKUZA FRIEND LEFT IN HIS CARE.-N.Y.
ARE YOU DONE, FREDDY? I WANNA USE YOUR TUB
CHK

NOK NOK
AIYEE
IT'S ME-- MIYUKI
DON'T WORRY... I'M OUTTA HERE.
NOK NOK
ARE YOU ALONE?
OH SURE, YEAH! JUST AIRING OUT MY ROOM
IT DOES SMELL A BIT FUNNY...
HA, HA! WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE
L-LET'S GO OUT, MIYUKI
OKAY
WE'RE PARTYING! COME ON OVER

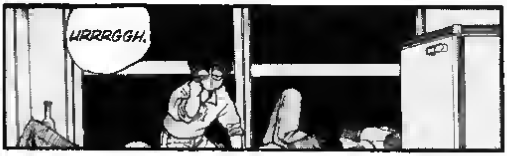
GOOD EVENING
A LETTER FROM "I," FROM OKINAWA PREFECTURE
"WHY DO ALL THE BABES HAVE THE HOTS FOR SUEKICHI? HE'S SO UNCUTE!"
abid
WELL, I GUESS WITH ME IT'S A DYSFUNCTIONAL THING.
PERSONALLY I THINK THE AUTHOR BOTCHED THE PREMISE OF THE STORY. WHAT WAS HE *THINKING?*
ida&
WHAT YOU THINK, MIYUKI?
WELL... HE'S JUST SO CHARMING!
MIYUKI! PLEASE!
THERE YOU GO BINGING AGAIN.
IT'S JUST JUICE.
I'M DRINKING FOR TWO NOW.
URK
CAN I HAVE SOME JUICE TOO?
SO REFRESHING!
URK
URK

HEY, I JUST FOUND OUT HOW FREDDY MANAGED TO GET SUCH A GREAT PLACE. WHAT A STORY!
THIS IS A PRETTY NEW BUILDING... AND HE'S GOT A BATHTUB AND A TOILET. THE RENT MUST BE HIGH
YEAH. BUT FREDDY MAKES LESS THAN SUEKICHI, AND YOU KNOW HOW LANDLORDS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST FOREIGNERS
THE TRUTH IS... THE LAST TENANT DIED HERE!
A SUICIDE! A PREGNANT WOMAN WHO GOT DUMPED BY HER MAN!
OH, G-GIVE ME A BREAK. I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD
SLASHED HER WRISTS IN THE BATHTUB!
THEY DIDN'T FIND HER FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS. THE PLACE WAS DRENCHED WITH BLOOD!

IT'S TRUE! THE NEIGHBORS TOLD ME.
DON'T YOU GET THE CREEPS LIVING HERE?
I NO AFRAID OF DEATH NOT ONE BIT.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.
THE BODY MADE OF MUD, THE BODY GO BACK TO MUD
FREDDY CAN BRING GHOSTS BACK FROM DEAD. HE DO MAGIC
REALLY?
IT'S EASY GRAND-MOTHER TEACH ME WHEN I AM KID
BACK HOME SHE WIN "HOTTEST WITCH DOCTOR" CONTEST FIVE WEEKS STRAIGHT! SHE IS GRAND CHAMPION!
SO LET'S HAVE A...
...SEANCE!!
WHAT DID FREDDY'S GRAND-MOTHER DO?

W-WHERE ARE YOU FROM, FREDDY?
THIS IS ONE OF YOUR RELIGIOUS RITUALS?
WON!
....

HE FORGET REST OF MAGIC WORDS.
I TRY REMEMBER FOR NEXT TIME.
YOU GUYS ARE SO SILLY!
...


URRRGGH.

SPLASH!!
EH?
THE PLACE WAS DRENCHED WITH BLOOD!

CHUD
NAH.. IT CAN'T BE
FSHHHH
CHAK!
YOU CALLED?
...SPEECHLESS...

IT'S ME
SUFFER, YOUNG ONE.
THAT IS THE PRIVILEGE OF YOUTH.
THERE YOU GO AGAIN ANOTHER NUGGET OF MEANINGLESS ADVICE!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO, GREAT-GRANDPA? SHARE THE WISDOM YOU'VE ACQUIRED OVER YOUR LIFETIME!
WAY TO GO, STUD! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN!
"STUD"...?
WELL, LET'S SEE..
UNGH
UGH

TO BE CONTINUED!

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IN A MONTH?
YES. I'VE ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CEREMONY
HERE'S AN APPLICATION FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE
THE SOONER YOU SUBMIT IT, THE BETTER. DUE TO YOUR RELATIVE YOUTH, THE SERVICE WILL BE QUITE SIMPLE.
NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO ENSURE THE BRIDEGROOM'S ATTENDANCE. EVERYTHING HINGES ON YOUR PERFORMANCE.

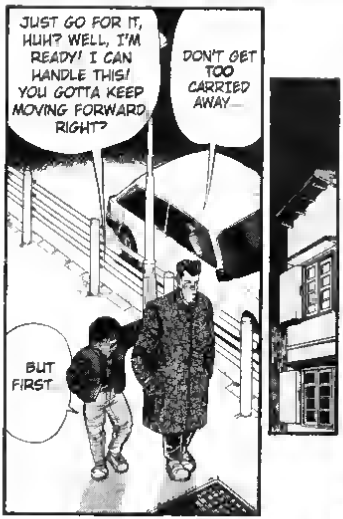
BUT WHAT IF AYA TELLS SUEKICHI THE TRUTH? SHE COULD RUIN EVERYTHING!
TRUE BUT WE HAVE NO ALTER-NATIVE
IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, THAT MIGHT EVEN WORK IN OUR FAVOR. .
YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I'M GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS TO BE RID OF AYA, AREN'T YOU?
NO, I JUST...
I HAVE MY REASONS
BUT THEY DON'T CONCERN YOU.

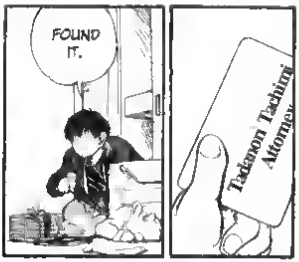
"THE W-WED-DING"...?
I-I DID?
YOU SAID WE SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THIS AS SOON AS POSSI-BLE, REMEMBER?
WE SHOULD START PLANNING RIGHT AWAY.
IT WOULD BE BEST.
...FOR OUR CHILD

DON'T GO ALL FISH-EYED ON ME!
SEE YA!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS BUGGING YOU...
I'VE GOT NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO
I'M SPINELESS.
SHE GAVE ME A MONTH!
YOU'RE SUCH A LOSER

QUITCHER WHINING!
YOU ASK ME OUT FOR A DRINK AND ALL YOU DO IS COMPLAIN...
THE DRINKS ARE ON ME
OH... WELL THEN...
ANOTHER WHISKEY SOUR.
I GUESS I PANIC-KED...
I WAS READY...I MEAN, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY REASON NOT TO...EXCEPT, I GUESS, THAT RULE AGAINST DATING TROUPE MEMBERS...
DON'T SWEAT IT. HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US
AN ORDER OF FRIED SQUID, EHMANE
SEAWEED KANSAROO BASHIMI
YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY TO TELL YOU YOU'RE TOO YOUNG...
...SO YOU CAN WRIGGLE OUT OF IT.
GROW UP, KID

ALL RIGHT.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE-- DO SOME-THING!
DRI


JUST GO FOR IT, HUH? WELL, I'M READY! I CAN HANDLE THIS! YOU GOTTA KEEP MOVING FORWARD, RIGHT?
DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY--
BUT FIRST


FOUND IT.
Tadamon Tachimi Attorney

HELLO? MR TACHIMI?

SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
QUITE ALL RIGHT I'VE CALLED ON YOU UNEXPECTEDLY MANY A TIME.

TEA.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
W-WELL

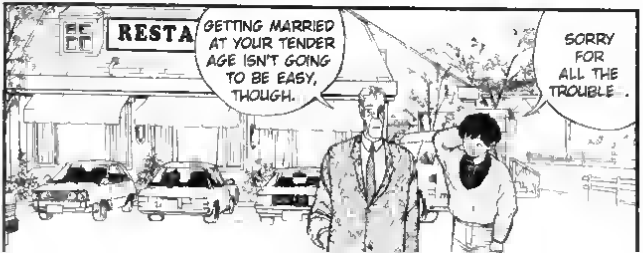
I...
...I'M GETTING MARRIED!

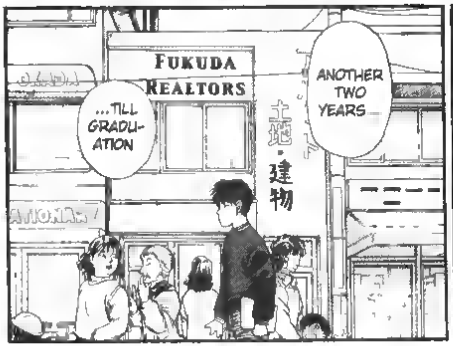
N-NOT TO AYA HIBINO, OF COURSE. HER NAME IS MIYUKI FUKAGAWA AND SHE ISN'T A FLOOZY AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE SHE'S PREGNANT OR ANYTHING AND I'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH VERY CAREFULLY AND I KNOW I HAVE TO WORK OUT THE FINANCES AND GET A BETTER JOB BUT

I MUST SAY, I'M A BIT TAKEN ABACK. I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D GET MARRIED THIS SOON. I'LL HAVE TO REVIEW THE STIPULATIONS OF YOUR INHERITANCE

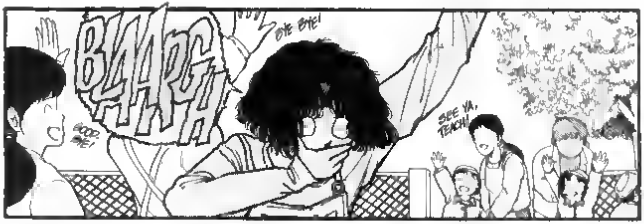
HOW-EVER ..

. I DON'T FORESEE ANY PROBLEM.
REALLY!?


RESTA
GETTING MARRIED AT YOUR TENDER AGE ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY, THOUGH.
SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE .



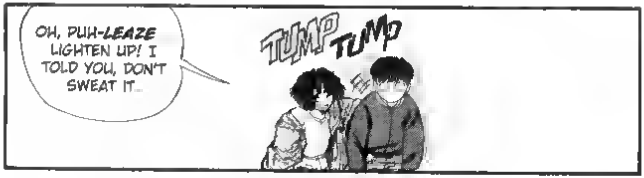
*APPROXIMATELY $4 500 000


B4ARG
OOF
BYE BYE!
SEE YA, TEACH!

THERE YOU GO AGAIN!
YOU DRINK TOO MUCH!
MAYBE YOU'RE PREGNANT! HA, HA...
HOW MANY MONTHS?
THREE

WHAT DID YOU BUY?
THE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S NAMES
ACTUALLY...
COOL. CAN I BORROW IT SOME-TIME?

I'M GETTING MARRIED IN A MONTH
OH CONGRATU-LATIONS
LISTEN... I BELIEVE YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE PREGNANT AND THAT THE BABY IS MINE AND I KNOW IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY
AND YOUR POINT IS...?
I KNOW IT'S CRASS TO SETTLE THIS WITH MONEY BUT THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO FOR YOU.
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY INHERI-TANCE
SO...
BUT SHE ISN'T AS STRONG AS YOU! I HAVE TO BE WITH HER!


OH, PUH-LEAZE LIGHTEN UP! I TOLD YOU, DON'T SWEAT IT...
TUMP TUMP

ALL I WANT IS THE KID I'M NOT GOING TO BLACKMAIL YOU OR ANYTHING JUST PAY ME BACK THE ¥ 1,000,000* I LOANED YOU.
I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK.

SWEE'HA!

*ABOUT $10,000

OH... ONE MORE THING...
SINCE YOU'RE SO DAMN SMUG, I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH...

MIYUKI IS WORKING FOR MR. TACHIM! I SAW THEM SCHEMING TOGETHER

HE HIRED HER TO BREAK US UP

I KNOW THIS IS A TERRIBLE BLOW FOR YOU. BUT YOU MUST FACE REALITY.
I'M SORRY THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
BUT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
WOOO!
GOODBYE!
BUT I'M TELLING THE--
AFTER ALL, SHE HAS NO PROOF...
TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT FIFTY-EIGHT
LIKE A VIRGIN

English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Translation by BEN JOE WADOKO
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

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I'M GOIN' OUT!
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
YOU'RE GOING TO VISIT SUEKICHI, AREN'T YOU?
HOW I SPEND MY SUNDAY IS NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX!
IS TOO. TELL HER, SUE
I CANNOT REST UNTIL SUEKICHI'S ROLE IN THE SECRET INHERITANCE IS BROUGHT TO LIGHT!

FOR THE RECORD, IT'S NOT THE *MONEY* THAT CONCERNS ME, BUT THE *TRUTH*!
HEY! I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA HANG IN HARAJUKU!
I GUESS YOU CAN TAG ALONG
I *KNEW* IT! YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SUEKICHI!!
FREDDY. I'M VISITING FREDDY
YEAH, RIGHT. I'LL BET
WHOA!
OH!
WRK!

A SUIT? PRETTY DRESSY FOR A STARVING STUDENT!
FOR THE RECORD...
I'M JUST VISITING FREDDY. I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT MESSING UP YOUR MARRIAGE.
YEAH, RIGHT I'LL BET.
MARK MY WORDS, TODAY IS THE DAY I MAKE YOU SPILL THE SECRET OF GREAT-GRANDPA'S INHERITANCE!
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU NOTHIN'
I'M GOING TO HAVE A NORMAL LIFE!!
HE'S ESCAPING!
ZOW
OH, I GET IT! YOU'RE GOING TO SPLIT IT WITH YOUR WOMAN!
YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF TIME ON YOUR HANDS
BUT I'M IN A HURRY
I BET HE'S GOING TO MEET HER.
NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE
TUPPA TUPPA TUPPA

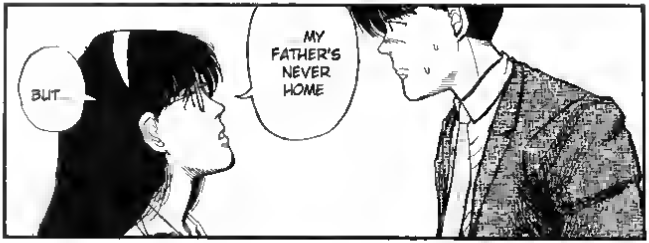
SUE-KICHI--OVER HERE!
....
C'MON, LET'S GO!
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
WE'LL BE SAFE HERE
THE COAST IS CLEAR..
HUH?

ISN'T THIS ADOR-ABLE?
SALE
¥12,000 FOR THIS? FOR A BRAT?
JUST WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS ANOTHER SPOILED CHILD
FREDDY WAS OUT, SO WE WENT FOR A WALK AND, WELL, HERE WE ARE
QUITE THE MANIPULATOR, AREN'T YOU?
WHY, HELLO, AYA WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!

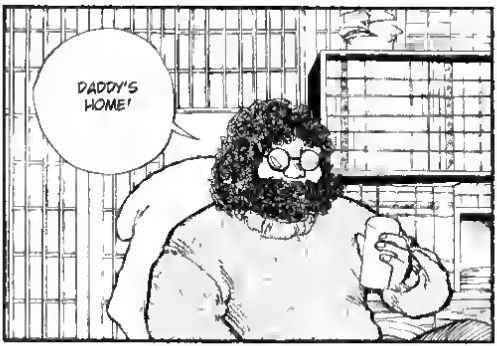
SO WHEN DO THE CONJUGAL RITES TAKE PLACE?
WHAT A VOCAB-ULARY...
IN A MONTH I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT TO THE RECEPTION, AYA.
OH, I'LL BE THERE ALL RIGHT
ORANGE JUICE, PLEASE.
LEMON-ADE FOR ME
IT'LL BE INFORMAL. WE'LL POST-PONE THE GIFTS AND CEREMONY TILL LATER
MUST BE ROUGH, MARRYING A GUY WHO DOESN'T HAVE HIS ACT TOGETHER YET
WHY ARE YOU SHOPPING FOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES, AYA?
OH NO! I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING!
WELL, YOU SEE--
WELL, WE'RE BOTH YOUNG...
WHAT'S THE HURRY, THEN?
THERE GOES YOUR CUT OF THE INHERITANCE
B-BUT...
I-I'M LATE! WE'VE GOTTA GO!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT YOUR TAB?

LOST 'EM
GUESS SO
TAKA
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T CARE
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND LOSING SUEKICHI TO HER?
LET'S GO TO HARAJUKU ALREADY!
TOO MANY ASIANS 'ROUND HERE
KEEP YOUR PAWS OFFA ME, CREEP!
COME ON, FACE THE FACTS. THE MORE YOU DENY YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME, THE MORE I LOVE YOU!
LIKE MY FEELING OF WANTING TO KILL YOU!?
do me

SO... WHAT DID YOU FORGET?
H-HUH? OH, I GUESS I'VE FORGOTTEN AGAIN. WELL, IT MUST NOT HAVE BEEN VERY IMPORTANT THEN.
THAT HAPPENS TO ME, TOO!
TO ASK YOUR FATHER FOR YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE
MIYUKI..
YES?
YOU KNOW WHY I'M WEARING THIS AWFUL SUIT, DON'T YOU?


BUT...
MY FATHER'S NEVER HOME

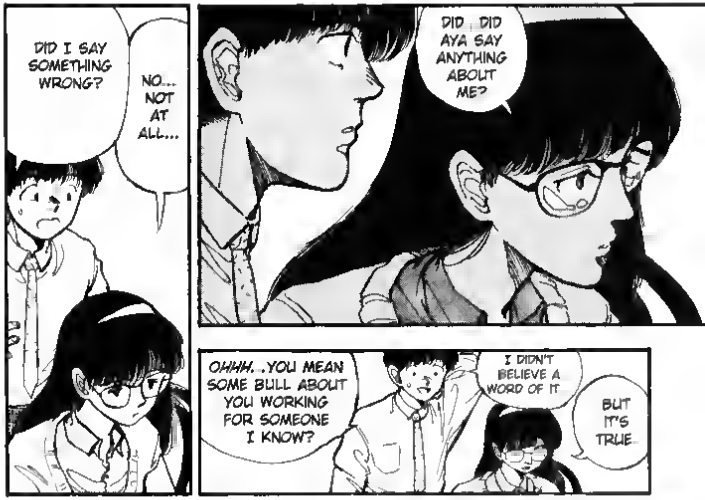
HARA-JUKU!
BE MY GUEST


DADDY'S HOME!

DADDY!
I'M NOT YOUR DADDY.

I SEE...
SO YOU WANT TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL A STUDENT
WELL .. WHY NOT?
REALLY?
SURE. IT'S FINE WITH ME. I WAS A STUDENT MYSELF WHEN I MARRIED MIYUKI'S MOTHER
YOU TWO CAN LIVE HERE. I'M NOT HOME MOST OF THE TIME ANYWAY. AND MIYUKI GETS LONELY.
OOF!
YOU CAN STAY THE NIGHT IF YOU WANT
MY TRAIN LEAVES THIS EVENING.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!

KREEK
IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?
ALL IN THE LINE OF DUTY. HE ISN'T HOME, HE ISN'T AT WORK, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE CASH FOR A LOVE HOTEL. SO THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE LEFT.
HE'S PRETTY PREDICTABLE.
YOUR FATHER'S COOL. WHAT AN ADVENTURER!
SEE? THERE THEY ARE!
HE'S A LIBERTINE.
ALWAYS CHASING AFTER LOST TREASURE.
WELL, IN ANY CASE, I'M GLAD HE AGREED TO OUR MARRIAGE SO EASILY
I'LL CALL MY PARENTS IN A COUPLE DAYS.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?


DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
NO... NOT AT ALL...
DID... DID AYA SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME?
OHHH...YOU MEAN SOME BULL ABOUT YOU WORKING FOR SOMEONE I KNOW?
I DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT
BUT IT'S TRUE

MR. TACHIMI HIRED ME TO MEET YOU— TO SEPARATE YOU FROM AYA...
THIS MARRIAGE CEREMONY IS A FAKE— AND SO IS MY PREGNANCY

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THE VALUE OF THIS HOUSE SKYROCKETED. WITH THE PROPERTY AND INHERITANCE TAX AFTER MY GRANDFATHER'S DEATH, WE SANK DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO DEBT.
HOW COME THEY LOOK SO SERIOUS?
SINCE MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY, MY FATHER HAS BEEN OBSESSED WITH TREASURE HUNTING HE'S DOING HIS BEST, I SUPPOSE..
ADULTS ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THAT.
BUT I HAD TO SAVE OUR HOUSE! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER TO JUST SELL IT AND MOVE, BUT...IT HOLDS SO MANY MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER... I KNOW IT'S CHILDISH AND SENTIMENTAL...

I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO LIE TO YOU ANYMORE... TO YOU AND TO MYSELF...
SUEKICHI!!
I'M SO SORRY!!
BUT I DO LOVE YOU! NO MATTER HOW IT BEGAN, PLEASE BELIEVE ME-- I REALLY DO LOVE YOU!

TO BE CONTINUED...

ACT FIFTY-NINE
WHO CARES HOW WE MET?

English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Translation by TOSHI YOSHIDA
Lettering & Touch-up Art by BAN NAKROSS

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

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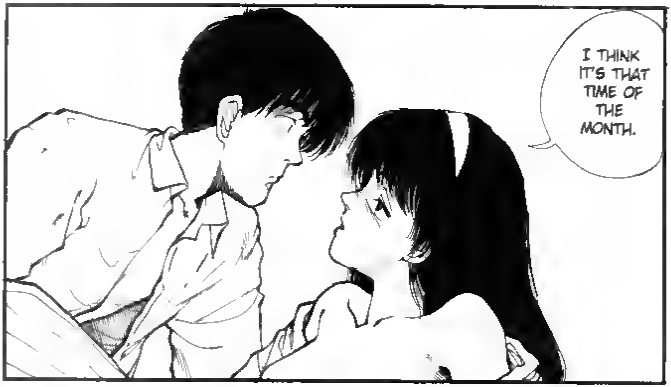
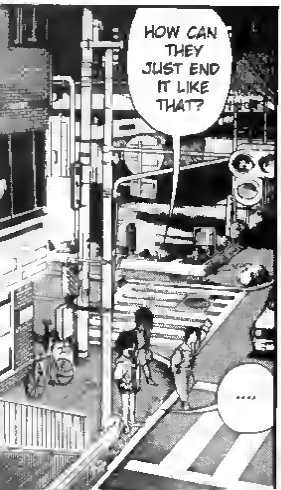
WHO CARES HOW WE MET?
WE'RE BOTH VICTIMS OF TACHIMI'S PLOT
LUCKY THING I ALWAYS CARRY A BUG ON ME
HOW CONVENIENT
THAT'S MY GIRL!
SO WHAT IF HE HOOKED US UP?
WHAT MATTERS IS HOW WE FEEL ABOUT EACH OTHER!

IF I LOVE YOU. .AND YOU LOVE ME ..
I PREDICT SMOOCHIES!
WELL .. WHAT MORE CAN I SAY?

STOP BLUSHING, KID
AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?
HEY! THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE BED!
TYPICAL. GROWNUPS ALWAYS GO FOR THE BED.
WON'T THAT HURT THE BABY?
OH YEAH ..I FORGOT.
THINK HE'LL START AT THE TOP OR THE BOTTOM?
VOYEURS DON'T BLUSH

WELL, I DO GO TO CATHOLIC SCHOOL...
SO WHAT?


I THINK IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH.


HOW CAN THEY JUST END IT LIKE THAT?
....

GO TO OUME KAIDO.

YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET. IN SHOCK?
LIKE I SAID, IT'S NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE.

HELLO CONGRATULATIONS..
...ON YOUR MARRIAGE
KRAK!K

MR. TACHIMI, YOU ARE A COLD AND RUTHLESS MAN! ALTHOUGH IT'S TRUE THAT WITHOUT YOUR MACHINATIONS MIYUKI AND I WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.
NEVERTHELESS-- YOUR ACTIONS ARE UNCONSCIONABLE! HOW COULD YOU TOY WITH OUR FEELINGS LIKE THAT!?

YEAH, THAT WOULD BE COOL. BUT...

NO! THAT'S HOW I'LL DO IT!
FOR ONCE, I'LL BE A MAN!
HELLO.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...
MR. TACHIMI-- I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU *USED* MIYUKI TO--TO--
SHE TOLD ME SHE CONFESSED EVERYTHING. I TAKE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY
HOWEVER... YOU *DO* LOVE MIYUKI, *DON'T* YOU?
Y-YES, OF COURSE
THEN I FAIL TO SEE THE PROBLEM.
YOUR SUSPICIONS *ARE* UNDERSTANDABLE
I WENT TOO FAR, AND CONSEQUENTLY, I HAVE HURT YOUR FEELINGS. I APOLOGIZE.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU DID THIS ALL FOR MY SAKE! WANNA KNOW WHAT I THINK? I THINK YOU'RE GETTING A CUT OF THE INHERITANCE!

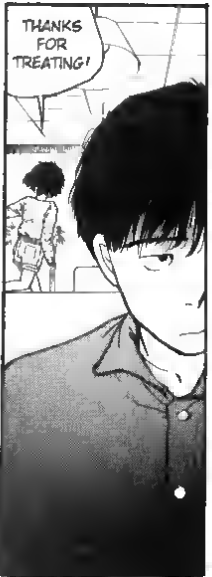
MIYUKI WILL MAKE AN EXEMPLARY WIFE SHE COMES FROM A GOOD FAMILY, AND SHE'S WELL BROUGHT UP. ALL I CAN DO TO MAKE UP FOR MY TRANSGRESSION IS TO OFFER YOU TWO MY FULL SUPPORT
I HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY CITY HALL, SO I PICKED UP THIS MARRIAGE REGISTRATION FORM...
SOME-THING AMISS?
NO... NOTHING.
YOU'RE GOING?
I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINT-MENT.
GOOD-BYE.
...MY FULL SUP-PORT...

WHERE YA HEADED, SUEKICHI?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TACHIMI, HE JUST DROVE OFF.
FOLLOWING ME, HUH?
YEP. AND I KNOW THE WHOLE STORY THAT SHE ISN'T REALLY PREG-NANT, FOR ONE THING.
WHAT ELSE?
THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND YOU TO FIND OUT...
BUY ME A CUP OF COFFEE?
I'LL HAVE THE CRAB CAKES, THE RIB-EYE STEAK, SOUP, SALAD OH--AND AN O J.

SO HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?
JUST ABOUT EVERY-THING.
YOUR HEART -TO-HEART LAST NIGHT, FOR INSTANCE.
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE IMPUL-SIVE?
IS IT REALLY TRUE LOVE? OR DO YOU JUST FEEL SORRY FOR MIYUKI?
STOP IT, AYA DON'T BE PATHETIC.
"WHO CARES HOW WE MET?" GIMME A BREAK! AFTER ALL YOUR WHINING ABOUT HOW WE GOT TOGETHER!?
REMEMBER HOW YOU ALWAYS USED TO SAY, "LET'S END THIS FLING THE WAY WE STARTED IT"?

WHAT IF MIYUKI SPILLING HER GUTS AND THE WATERWORKS ARE ALL STILL PART OF THE PERFORMANCE, SUEKICHI?

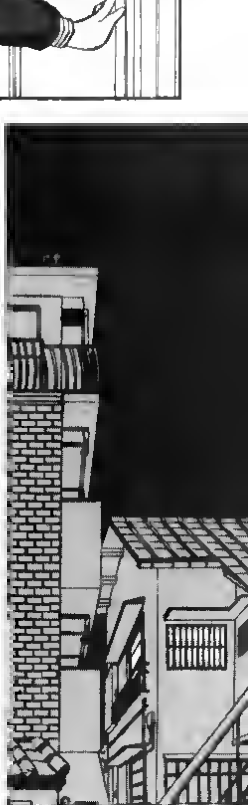
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

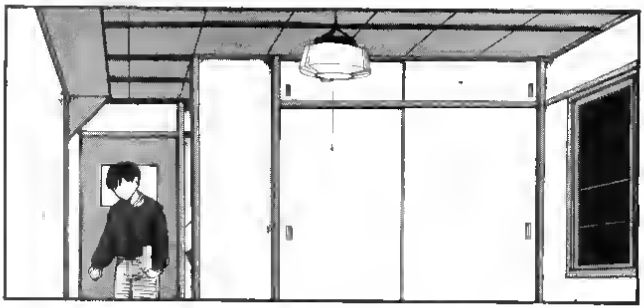

THANKS FOR TREATING!

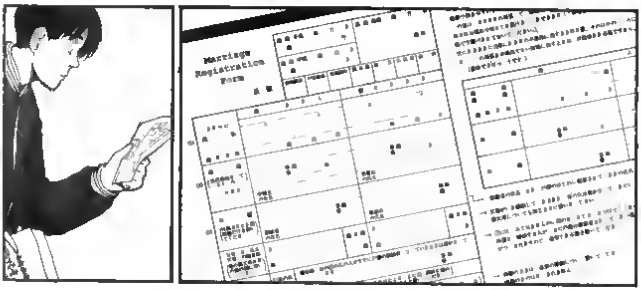
CONSIDER THAT MY TWO CENTS WORTH
PHEW! FEELS GOOD TO GET THAT OFF MY CHEST! SEE YOU AROUND

SKREEE

DAD? YEAH, IT'S ME.
I'M GETTING MARRIED NEXT MONTH.
NO, I'M NOT DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL CALL YOU LATER WITH THE DETAILS.







TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE till TOMORROW

ACT SIXTY
MARRIAGE BLUES

English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Translation by BEN JOE WADOKO
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

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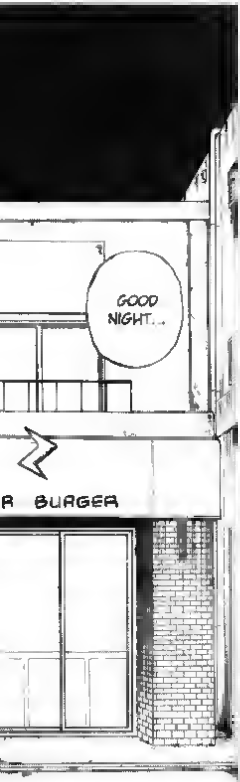
SO...
AND EVERYTHING HAS TURNED OUT FOR THE BEST.
JUST ONE WEEK TILL THE BIG DAY..
I TRUST YOU HAVE REGAINED YOUR FAITH IN ME AS RUTHLESS AS MY ACTIONS MAY HAVE SEEMED AT THE TIME, I DID IT ALL FOR YOUR SAKE, SUEKICHI.

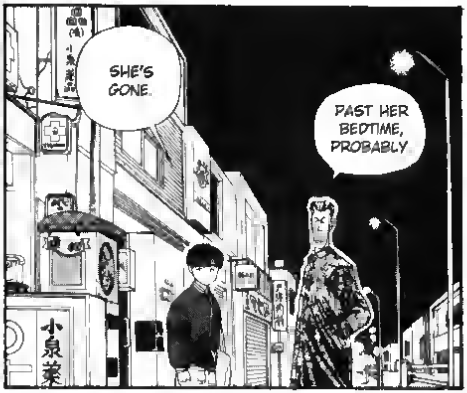
I REALIZE THIS MAY BE HARD TO ACCEPT COMING FROM ME... BUT I CAN'T RESIST POINTING OUT THAT MY BLUNDERS HAVE LED TO THE MOST FORTUITOUS OUTCOME. SO, PLEASE...
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING--ANYTHING AT ALL--DON'T HESITATE TO TURN TO ME. IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU.
THE NATTO BURGER IS SERVED WITH THE WHITE SAUCE NOT THE MISO SAUCE!
OH
OUR REPUTATION DEPENDS ON OUR GOURMET CUISINE. HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN WORKING HERE!?
THIS IS COMING OUT OF YOUR CHECK!
YOU'RE A MESS

JUST LIKE A SHOJO MANGA HEROINE IN LOVE! SIGH...
YOU'VE HAD THAT GOOFY SMILE PASTED ACROSS YOUR FACE ALL DAY... YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME, DID YOU?
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE GETTING COLD FEET.
RIGHT BEFORE YOU WALK DOWN THE AISLE, YOU'LL START WONDERING IF THIS IS WHAT YOU *REALLY* WANT. *"AM I MAKING THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE,"* YOU'LL ASK? USUALLY IT'S THE BRIDE WHO PANICKS, BUT...
I'M FINE REALLY.
THUNDER BURGER
DENIAL AIN'T A RIVER IN EGYPT!
I AM FULLY PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF MATRIMONY!
HA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AN INNOCENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THE TWISTED MACHINATIONS OF AN ADULT
YOU'RE JUMPING INTO MARRIAGE WITHOUT RESOLVING YOUR FEELINGS FOR AYA FIRST!
YOU MAY ASK, "WHAT BUSINESS IS THIS OF HERS?" WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I'M A CONCERNED NEIGHBOR.
SEE? BEING CONFRONTED BY A NAIVE SCHOOLGIRL MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK, DOESN'T IT?
WHAT IF THAT WAS ALL STILL PART OF THE PERFORMANCE?
NOW YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, AYA..
USING A KID...
HE WON'T LISTEN TO ANY OF US

LOAFING ON THE JOB AGAIN?
THUNDER BURGER
WE'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FOOD.

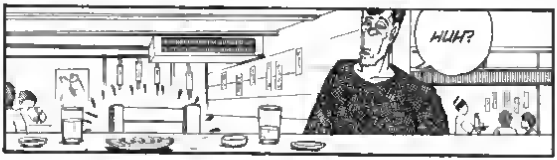

GOOD NIGHT...
R BURGER

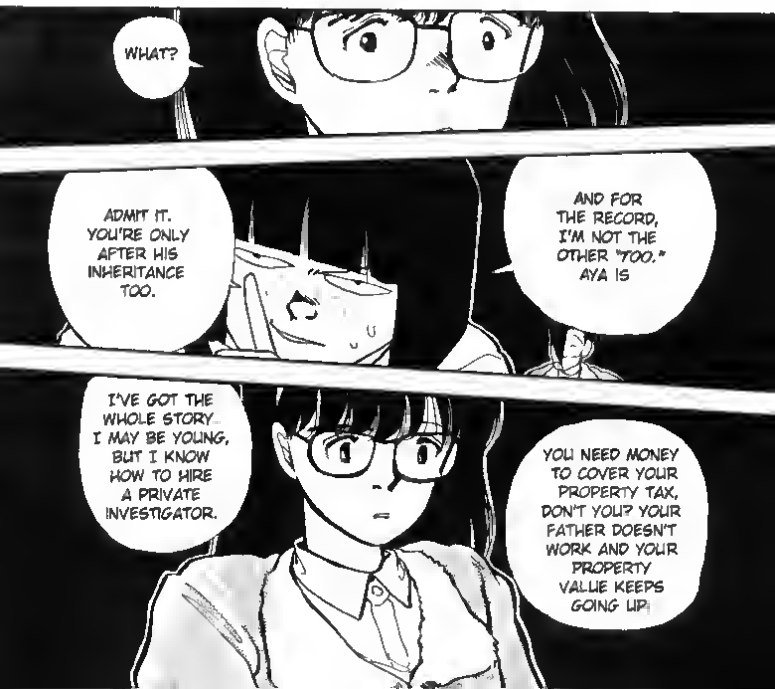

SHE'S GONE.
PAST HER BEDTIME, PROBABLY.

LET'S HAVE A DRINK I'LL HEAR YOU OUT.
BUT I DON'T HAVE NOTHIN' TO SAY!

YOU'LL SEE .. THE REAL STAR OF THIS STORY IS ME!
OVER HERE, SUE!
I'VE GOT NO COMPLAINTS IN THE END, TACHIMI GOT HIS WAY BUT THAT'S JUST HOW THE COOKIE CRUMBLES ANY CHANCE ENCOUNTER CAN FLOWER INTO A BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP, Y'KNOW HAVEN'T YOU READ ANY SANEATSU MUSHAKOJI NOVELS?
GOTTA MAKE A CALL
HM?
...I SEE. I THOUGHT GETTING HIM DRUNK TO FORCE A CONFESSION WAS A LAME STRATEGY. BUT IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING.
SO YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO INTRODUCE ME TO THAT 36-24-36 CLASSMATE OF YOURS? OH, AND LIKE I SAID, SHE CAN'T BE A VIRGIN.
TOO MUCH TROUBLE
PROCEED

GOOD EVENING.
G-GOOD EVENING.


HUH?


WHAT?
ADMIT IT. YOU'RE ONLY AFTER HIS INHERITANCE TOO.
AND FOR THE RECORD, I'M NOT THE OTHER "TOO." AYA IS
I'VE GOT THE WHOLE STORY. I MAY BE YOUNG, BUT I KNOW HOW TO HIRE A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR.
YOU NEED MONEY TO COVER YOUR PROPERTY TAX, DON'T YOU? YOUR FATHER DOESN'T WORK AND YOUR PROPERTY VALUE KEEPS GOING UP!

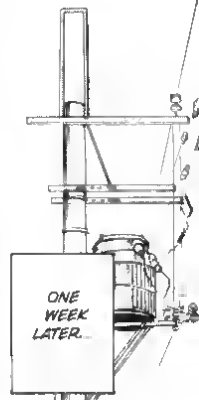
AYA MENTIONED AN INHERITANCE. DID SUEKICHI INHERIT SOMEONE'S ESTATE?
LOOKS LIKE WE LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG.
H-HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO KEEP UP THIS CHARADE? YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL AN INNOCENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?
...MERCENARY!!
B-BUT...
YOU ADULTS ARE SO... SO SO...
YOU GO, GIRL!
HUH?

LOOK
ENUF IZZ ENUF, AYA!!
WHAT?
I KNEW YOU WUZZ UP T' NO GOOD!
YOU JUSS LOVE MESSIN' UP MY LIFE DON'TCHA!?
UM...
UH -OH.
SO YOU'RE PREGNANT HUH? W-WELL IF IT WUZZN'T FOR YOU, I'D BE FREE!! AND I WANNA BE FREE!!
HEY! LEGGO OF HER!!
H-HELP...

DIE!!
SUE-KICHI
SUEKICHI!!
WHAK
WHUD
KOF
KOF
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY ALL THAT?
HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID
TAXI!
ADULTS ARE SO SELF-ABSORBED

SLURP
I JUST GOT BACK.
YOU LOOK TIRED. HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
I'D LOVE ONE.
WHAT'S UP? TROUBLE IN PARA-DISE?

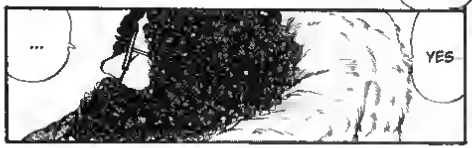
JUST FOLLOW YOUR BLISS. IN THE END WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE ANYWAY. ACT ON YOUR FEELINGS. YOUR MOTHER WAS LIKE THAT...

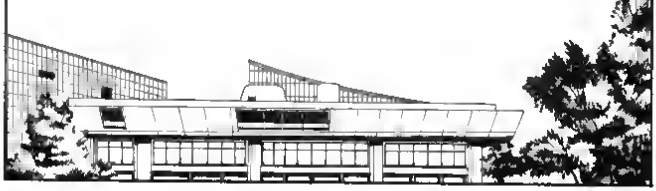

ONE WEEK LATER...

I'M OFF TO MADAGAS-CAR

THIS TIME, IT'S 100 PERCENT CERTAIN! SILVER, GOLD, PEARLS--ALL IN AN ANCIENT CAVE, 300 FEET UNDER-GROUND. I WON'T BE BACK FOR A DECADE OR SO. FIVE YEARS TO DIG UP THE INVESTORS, AND ANOTHER FIVE TO DIG UP THE TREASURE

DAD...
IS THAT HOW HARD IT IS FOR YOU TO BE HOME? BECAUSE OF THE MEMORIES OF MOM?

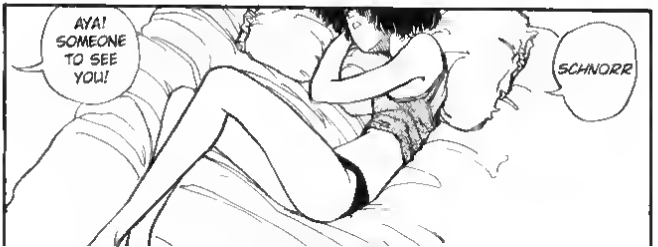

...
YES

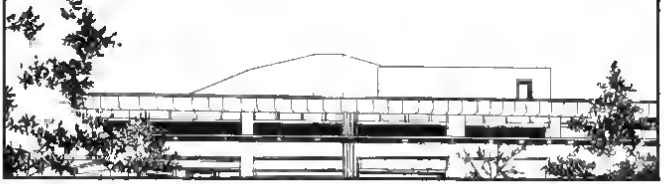


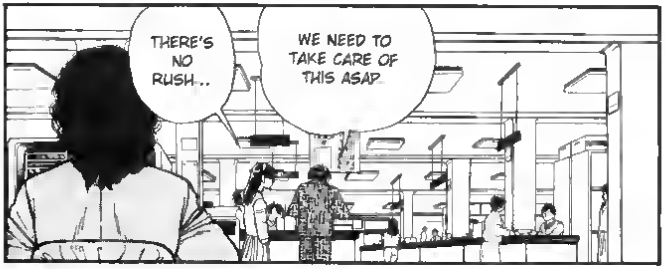
IT'LL BE MORE OF A PARTY THAN A WEDDING RECEPTION

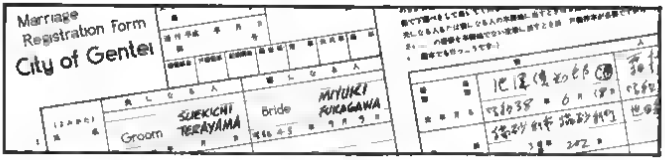
OH--A WITNESS FOR THE WEDDING? WITH MS SHIMOMURA?
NO PROBLEM
WHAT? A WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION? DREAM ON!

HEY! OVER HERE!
YOUR MOM'S TOO STUBBORN TO COME


AYA! SOMEONE TO SEE YOU!
SCHNORR



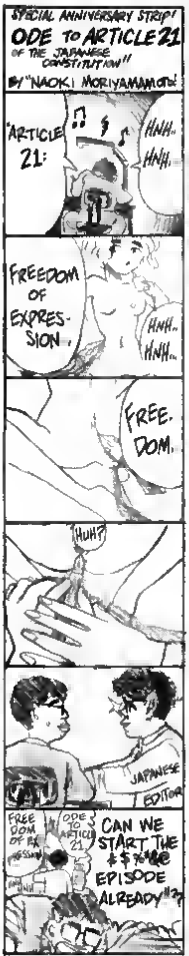

THERE'S NO RUSH...
WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS ASAP.

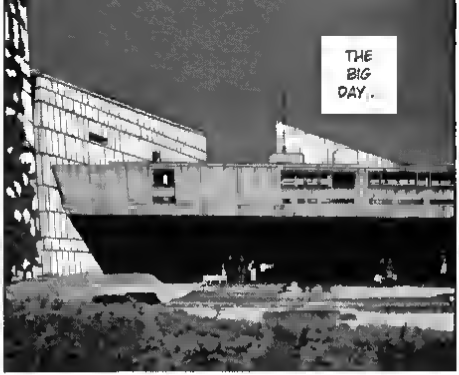

Marriage Registration Form
City of Gentei
Groom
SUEKICHI TERAYAMA
Bride
MIYUKI FUKAGAWA

HUH?

WE NEED TO TALK.
IT'S IMPOR-TANT.

AND THAT'S HOW IT IS
DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY. I'M JUST A CONCERNED NEIGHBOR.
YEAH, RIGHT.
THIS IS ALL ABOUT THE INHERITANCE, ISN'T IT? YOU CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF A STRANGER GETTING A CUT, CAN YOU?
H-HOW TWISTED DO YOU THINK I AM?
YOU ADULTS ARE SO... SO...
I TOLD YOU. SUEKICHI MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
WHAT NOW?
THE SEEDS I SOWED WILL SOON BEAR FRUIT...
PROB-ABLY...
TO BE CONTINUED...





ARTICLE 21 IS A MARVELOUS THING!!
(AND SO IS THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION'S FIRST AMENDMENT! -US EDITOR)

CAN'T YOU AT LEAST PUT SOME PANTIES ON, AYA?
HEY! LET'S GET ONE OF THOSE HUMONGOUS SINKS BIG ENOUGH TO WASH YOUR HAIR IN. WE CAN AFFORD IT!
DANCE TILL TOMORROW
ACT SIXTY-ONE
THE STARS' NOON → NIGHT
Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO
WHAT'S GOING ON?
FIRST, A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS
PANT PANT
THE BEST LAID PLANS OF

HIGHLY ACCLAIMED BESTSELLING MANGA BY NAOKI YAMAMOTO!

HAPPA 6A COMPLETE VOL. 1-3

KIWAMETE KAMOSHIDA COMPLETE VOL. 1-6

DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 1-4

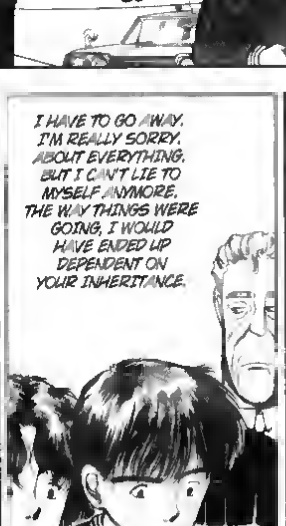
WHAT COULD BE DELAYING HER?
BEATS ME.
I'LL GIVE HER A CALL...
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE REACHED IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE...
I'M AT A LOSS.
COME ON. LET'S GO.
WHERE'S THE MAN OF THE HOUR OFF TO?
WELL...
FOLLOW THAT CAB!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT THE PARTY?
HAVE FUN.

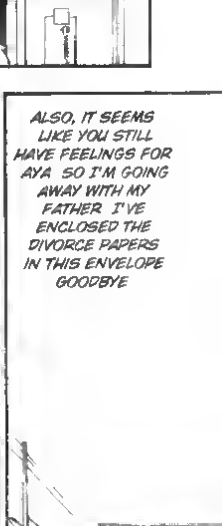
ALMOST THERE..
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HATE TO MISS A JOY RIDE!
A RECEIPT, PLEASE.
NO TRESPASSING

HOW CURIOUS...
THE HOUSE WAS HERE JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.
SCREECH

SCRATCH

FORGIVE ME, SUEKICHI.


I HAVE TO GO AWAY. I'M REALLY SORRY. ABOUT EVERYTHING. BUT I CAN'T LIE TO MYSELF ANYMORE. THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING, I WOULD HAVE ENDED UP DEPENDENT ON YOUR INHERITANCE.


ALSO, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR AYA SO I'M GOING AWAY WITH MY FATHER I'VE ENCLOSED THE DIVORCE PAPERS IN THIS ENVELOPE GOODBYE

A TAD MELO-DRAMATIC IF YOU ASK ME
YEAH... STANDING YOU UP ON THE DAY OF YOUR WEDDING RECEPTION... SHEESH!
MR TACHIMI
YES?
YOU OFFERED ME YOUR FULL SUPPORT...
PLEASE... I'D LIKE YOU...
..TO FIND HER
MAY I...?
HEY!
WHO IS THIS TACHIMI GUY REALLY?
HELLO. TACHIMI HERE
CAN YOUR PEOPLE CONTACT THEM? YES, I'LL SPEAK TO THEM DIRECTLY
HE'S GOT CONNEC-TIONS, THAT'S FOR SURE

"THIS HOUSE... HOLDS SO MANY MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER..."
YOU'RE PRETTY RELAXED FOR A BRIDEGROOM WHO'S JUST BEEN STOOD UP...
IS IT BECAUSE MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, DEEP DOWN INSIDE, YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
I FEEL BAD LEAVING EVERYONE BEHIND AT THE PARTY.
DON'T YOU IGNORE ME!
WANNA GIVE 'EM A CALL?
SUE
WHY WOULD SHE GIVE UP HER HOUSE?
YOU CAN'T BLAME HER FOR TAKING OFF... I MEAN, REALLY!

HAVIN' A GREAT TIME, WISH YOU WUZ HERE!
THERE WILL BE MUCH LEFT-OVERS!
OKAY IF I INVITE MY FRIENDS?
DON'T SEE WHY NOT...
WHAT A CATAS-TROPHE...
AH, IMPETUOUS YOUTH!
SUE'S WOULD-BE BOYFRIEND'S PHONE (PRE-CELL PHONE DAYS!)

I WISH I WAS THERE TOO...
YOU TOLD HER AYA'S PREGNANT!?

NO. YOU DID WHEN YOU WERE DRUNK REMEMBER?
R-REMEM-BER...!?

SO YOU THINK MIYUKI
THAT'S RIGHT-- SHE FELL FOR YOUR BLUFF!
SO THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT
YOU'RE WITH CHILD?
Veep Veep
YES
BUT THAT'S MY PHONE!
YOU'VE LOCATED THEM?
ENUFF DRINKIN' AND EATIN'.
HOWZ ABOUT SOME ENNERTAIN-MENT?
W-WELL, I COULD .
I BRING MY FRIENDS!
YOU GO, BOY!

THAT WAS QUICK.
I INSTRUCTED THEM TO CHECK EVERY POSSIBLE DEPARTURE POINT FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU CATCH HER? GET ON YOUR KNEES AND BEG?
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO THE PARTY?
THIS IS MUCH MORE ENTER-TAINING!
WHO HA
PARTY HEARTY!!!
PWOOOO!
HERE?
SOME-WHERE AT THIS HARBOR.
WE HAVE TO PLAY "LET'S FIND MIYUKI!"?
A RECEIPT, PLEASE.

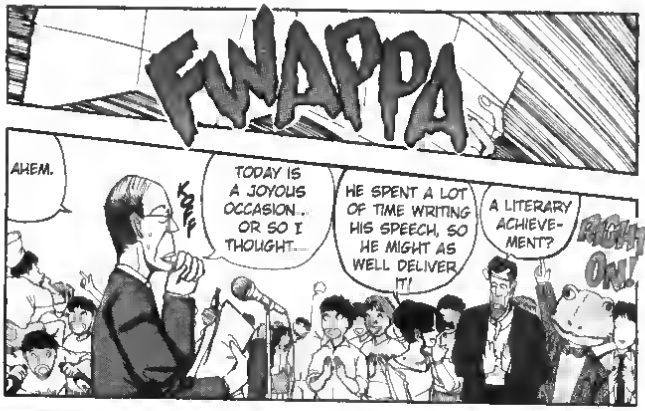
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I TOLD YOU...
I'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO BACK TO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER?
HERE SHE COMES NOW
SORRY I'M LATE, PROFES-SOR.
MY FORMER STUDENT--MS TABATA.

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?
MY SOURCES ARE IMPECCABLE
YOO-HOO. MIYUK-I-I-I!!!
KIND OF A RETRO WAY TO TRAVEL, ISN'T IT?
DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
MY FATHER HATES TO FLY.
AND WE AREN'T IN ANY HURRY. WE FOUND A TANKER HEADING FOR MADAGA-SCAR.
SO I'M GOING TO BE THE BITCH WHO TORE YOU TWO APART!?
AND YOU'RE TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT BY LEAVING THE COUNTRY!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THIS WAS MY DECISION
WHAT IF I LIED ABOUT BEING PREGNANT?
DID YOU?
HYPOTHET-ICALLY SPEAKING, I MEAN

IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
MIYUKI!!
SHE'S LYING! SHE'S A LIAR! SHE'S LIED TO ME OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
FOUND HER!

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
IT WAS ALL AN ACT
...TO BREAK YOU AND AYA UP
BUT ONLY UNTIL YOU CONFESSED! R-RIGHT..?
THE BEST LIES ARE SPRINKLED WITH TRUTHS
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...? THAT EVERY-THING...
I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE THIS SUCCESS-FUL...
BUT I CAN'T GO ON WITH THIS CHARADE AND I DON'T NEED THE MONEY ANYMORE

GOODBYE, SUEKICH! GOODBYE, AYA.
I'LL SEND YOU A POST-CARD.
COOL!
EAT!
345!
KABOOM!
BWA-HA-HA!
WHO!?
JUST DO IT!


FWAPPA
AHEM.
KOFF
TODAY IS A JOYOUS OCCASION.. OR SO I THOUGHT...
HE SPENT A LOT OF TIME WRITING HIS SPEECH, SO HE MIGHT AS WELL DELIVER IT!
A LITERARY ACHIEVE-MENT?
RIGHT ON!

THEY'RE GONE...
ON THIS SPECIAL DAY WE MUST ASK OUR-SELVES, WHAT IS MARRIAGE? THE UNION OF MAN AND WOMAN
STAY IN JAPAN

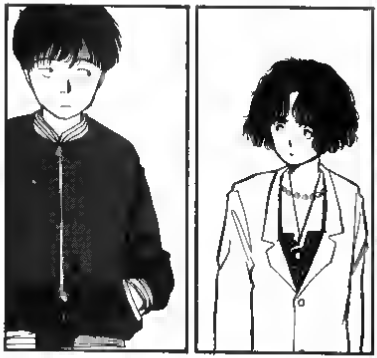
IF YOU COME WITH ME, YOU'LL JUST BE RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR PROBLEMS.
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH THAT ATTITUDE.
PROFESSOR, THEY'RE ABOUT TO WEIGH ANCHOR
BUT I DON'T HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO!
HERE'S YOUR HALF OF THE SALE. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BY FOR TEN YEARS WITHOUT WORKING
YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HER, AND I'M IN THE WAY, RIGHT?
.....
YES.
PRO-FES-SOR.

WHAT IS A MAN? WHAT IS A WOMAN? WHAT IS MARRIAGE?
TIME'S UP? WHO'D PARTY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUDDHA'S DEATH, ANYWAY?
WE'LL EXTEND OUR TIME THEN.

IS IT SIMPLY A MATTER OF EXCHANGING..
BACK TO THE PARTY.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE THOSE TWO ALONE TOGETHER!?
...HOUSEKEEPING FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

YOU MUST HATE ME NOW..
WHY?
BECAUSE YOU THINK SHE LEFT YOU BECAUSE OF ME.
NOT REALLY.
SHE WOULDN'T BELIEVE YOUR LIES.

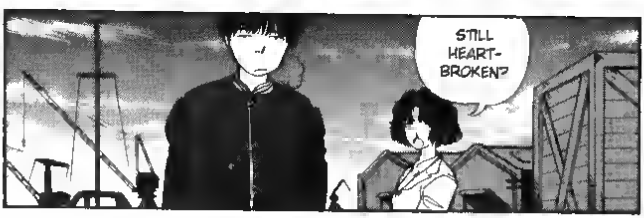
YOU ARE LYING ABOUT BEING PREGNANT, RIGHT?
...I GUESS.
I WENT TO THE DOCTOR HE SAYS I'VE GOT GASTRITIS FROM DRINKING TOO MUCH



LET'S START.

YOU SAID BEFORE THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW A RELATIONSHIP STARTS..
SO

WHERE'S SUEKICHI AND THE OTHERS?
STILL AT THE HARBOR, I GUESS. WE DROPPED OFF MR TACHIMI ON THE WAY HERE


STILL HEART-BROKEN?

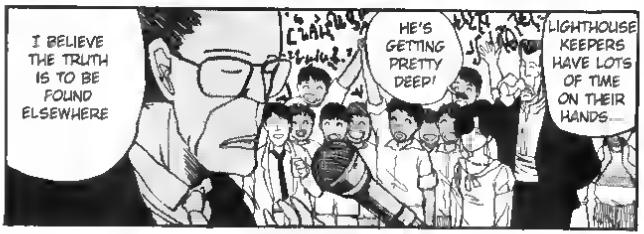
NO TRESPASSING
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULD BE HERE?
A HUNCH
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, ONE COULD EVEN ARGUE THAT MARRIAGE IS...
...A FORM OF PROSTITUTION, IN WHICH INCOME IS EXCHANGED FOR SEX AND PROCREATION

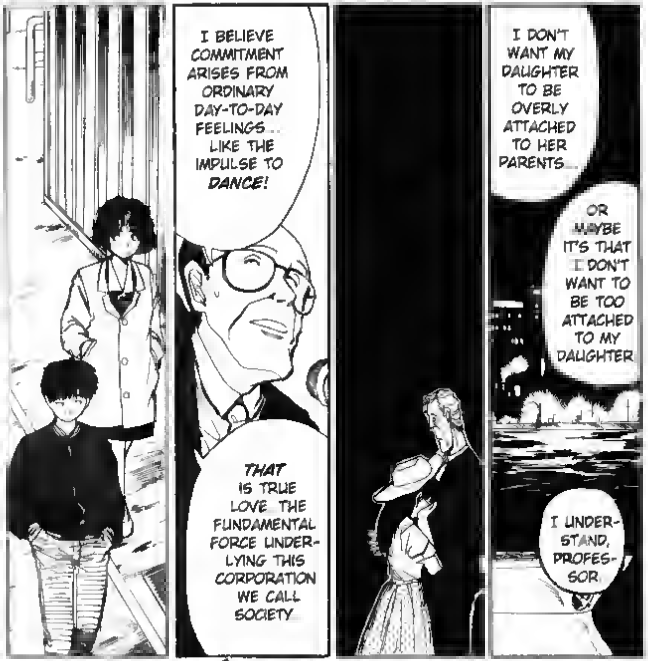
LET ME MAKE THIS UP TO YOU
"MAKE THIS UP TO ME"?

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH!?
I'LL DO MY BEST.

WILL YOU MARRY ME?

THERE'S THE AGE GAP AND MARRIAGE FOR ME IS...
I'M KIDDING


I BELIEVE THE TRUTH IS TO BE FOUND ELSEWHERE
HE'S GETTING PRETTY DEEP!
LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS HAVE LOTS OF TIME ON THEIR HANDS...


I BELIEVE COMMITMENT ARISES FROM ORDINARY DAY-TO-DAY FEELINGS... LIKE THE IMPULSE TO DANCE!
THAT IS TRUE LOVE THE FUNDAMENTAL FORCE UNDERLYING THIS CORPORATION WE CALL SOCIETY
I DON'T WANT MY DAUGHTER TO BE OVERLY ATTACHED TO HER PARENTS...
OR MAYBE IT'S THAT I DON'T WANT TO BE TOO ATTACHED TO MY DAUGHTER
I UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR

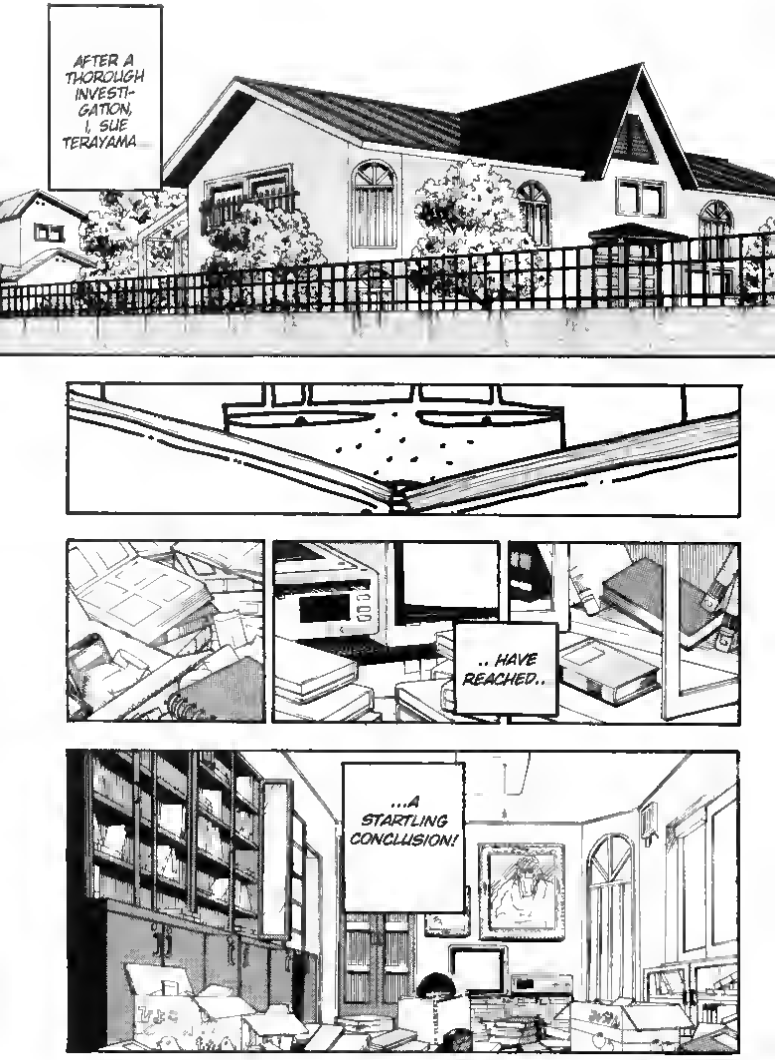
TO BE CONTINUED...

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT SIXTY-TWO
STUCK AGAIN

English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Translation by BEN JOE WADOKO
Lettering & Touch Up Art by DANIEL AKROSIS

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO


AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTI-GATION, I, SUE TERAYAMA
.. HAVE REACHED..
...A STARTLING CONCLUSION!

DINNER'S READY!
OKAY.
TP TP TP TP
DID YOU HEAR THAT!? THE CAT TALKED! YOU HEARD IT YOURSELF JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU? I SAID, "DINNER'S READY," AND ISABEL SAID, "OKAY." YOU CAN'T DENY IT THIS TIME!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING, ARE YOU?
HERE'S YOUR DIN-DIN, ISABEL! GOOD KITTY!
I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING YOUR PARENTS HAVE TOTALLY FORGOTTEN YOU! BUMMER.
WHO LET YOU IN?
YOU'VE BEEN COOPED UP ALL SPRING VACATION. I FEEL BAD FOR YOU.
WHY'RE YOU SITTING NEXT TO ME THEN?

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! WE'RE TEENAGERS! WE SHOULD BE FROLICKING OUTSIDE, SUE!
I *TOLD* YOU I'D SMACK YOU IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE WE'RE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS!
YOU AND I... TWO LONELY SOULS STUMBLING THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE CALLED "LIFE"
MY SUE!!
GET OFFA ME!

CAN'T YOU SEE THE TORMENT I'M IN? MY URGE TO PROTECT YOU IS AT WAR WITH MY URGE TO HAVE YOU! THE AQUATIC BIRD MAY LOOK LIKE IT'S FLOATING EFFORTLESSLY, BUT IN REALITY, ITS FEET ARE PADDLING FURIOUSLY SO AS NOT TO DROWN IN THE SEA OF LOVE!
FWUD
OF COURSE, NOT BEING A MAN, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDER-STAND...
BIP BEEP BIP
SUE'S HYPO-THESIS BECAME REALITY.
HELLO?

GREETINGS, SUEKICHI.
THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED, SO I LET MYSELF IN.
I TOOK CARE OF THE DIVORCE PAPERWORK FOR YOU
WELL, THANKS, BUT . .
IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO.
AFTER ALL, MY PRESUMPTUOUS MEDDLING IS THE CAUSE OF THIS CATASTROPHE
TH-THAT'S OKAY. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

WELL, I'D BEST BE ON MY WAY...
CHILD
IS THE COAST CLEAR?
HOW'S HE DOING?
HE SEEMED ALL RIGHT.
I STILL DON'T SEE HOW HIRING YOU AS MY SECRETARY AND DRIVER MAKES AMENDS TO YOU...
IT'LL DO FOR NOW. I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF I THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.
SORRY! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN BEHIND THE WHEEL!
ULP!
SCREECH

I'M TAKING A NICE LITTLE NAP, AND SUDDENLY TACHIMI SHOWS UP!
IT'S SPRING YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR KOTATSU TABLE IN STORAGE
WE'RE FALLING INTO OLD PATTERNS ALREADY!
CHILL OUT.
AS SOON AS MY GASTRITIS GOT BETTER, I FELL OFF THE WAGON I'VE BEEN DRINKING SINCE LAST NIGHT.
IT'S NOON, AND YOU REEK!
WE'RE BOTH DIVORCEES NOW--LET'S COMFORT EACH OTHER!
THINGS GOT OUT OF CONTROL A GUEST SENT ME HOME IN A TAXI
A... "GUEST"?

OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'M MOON-LIGHTING.
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE AN APPROPRIATE SECOND CAREER FOR A CHILDCARE PROVIDER...

QUIT PREACHING I'M SHORT OF CASH, BECAUSE I LOANED SOME MONEY.
NOW WHO DID I LEND IT TO AGAIN?
WHAT KIND OF WORK IS IT?

WORRIED ABOUT ME?
N-NO AND WHY AM I HAVING DEJA-VU!?

OH!
WHAT?

MY UNDER-WEAR'S GONE.

THAT'S STRANGE... WHEN DID IT COME OFF?
YOU'RE SO *FAST*, SUEKICHI!
HOW COULD I HAVE? YOU'RE WEARING PANTS!
A JOB WHERE YOU LOSE YOUR PANTIES SOUNDS NASTY...

SPEAKING OF NASTY... HOW ABOUT IT?
HERE.
...WE GO AGAIN.

SUEKICHI! TELEPHONE!
abidas
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES ..
IT'S ME.
WOW, FREDDY! YOU GOT A PHONE!
WHY DON'T YOU GET ONE, SUE-KICHI?
WHAT "MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY"?
YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING KEEPS GOING UP, FREDDY
I FIND ALL THESE THING ON STREET. JAPANESE THROW EVERY-THINGS AWAY
KEEP IT DOWN, WILL YA?
I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU... BECAUSE I'M BUSY! ..I'VE GOT TO GO TO WORK, AND THE TROUPE'S PUT-TING ON A NEW PRODUCTION
TAKING OFF, FREDDY?
abidas
I GOT EARLY SHIFT TODAY.

JUST STAY PUT, ALL RIGHT?
I'M TAKING ALL THE TROUBLE TO COME OVER. I PROMISE, IT'LL BE WORTH YOUR WHILE.
OH, NOW I REMEMBER! A GUEST PUKED ON MY SKIRT. I HAD A PAIR OF PANTS IN MY BAG, BUT NO SPARE UNDIES.
BUT YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS, RIGHT, SUEKICHI?
CHAK
I KNOW THIS SEEMS LIKE OUR OLD ROUTINE, BUT...
...I REALLY DO NEED A BATH!
I W-WASN'T EVEN THINK-ING...
I'M GOING HOME.
GO AHEAD
IF FREDDY'S PALS DROP BY, THEY'LL JUMP YOU.
UNLIKE YOU, THEY'RE GENTLE-MEN

SHISH
UH-OH..
..IF THIS IS THE SAME OLD ROUTINE, THEN...
CHAK
I KNEW IT!
I DON'T FEEL S-SO GOOD ..

I'M GONNA DIE!
NO YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE JUST DRUNK STILL.
SQUISH
THERE YOU GO.
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
ACK!
DON'T LET ME DIE ALONE
I'M THE ONE WHO'S DYING HERE
Y-YOU'RE NOT..
...DYING!
SKWINCH

I DON'T CARE WHAT BECOMES OF ME ANYMORE...
THEN LET ME GO!
YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF.
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER MIYUKI YET, HAVE YOU?
I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET!
LURK!
.....
SHUT UP SHUT UP
HEY!
W-WELL...
HOW COME I'M SUCKING YOUR DICK?
YOU MONSTER! GETTING ME DRUNK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME
Y-YOU'RE THE ONE--
FWUMP

SCHNORR
BRRRING
IT'S ME.
YOU AGAIN
HNNMMGH
URK
OKAY, OKAY. I'LL BE HERE.
ACTUALLY, WE'VE ALREADY ARRIVED.

SO WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'LL REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON YOUR CURRENT SHENANIGANS...
WHAT I'VE COME TO TELL YOU IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT
BRACE YOURSELF!
I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF AT FIRST, BUT THERE ISN'T A SHRED OF DOUBT.
YOUR REAL FATHER IS...
...MR. TACHIMI!
WHAT!?
ONCE AGAIN WITHOUT MY INITIATIVE, THE TRUTH WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO LIGHT!
DETAILS IN THE NEXT CHAPTER!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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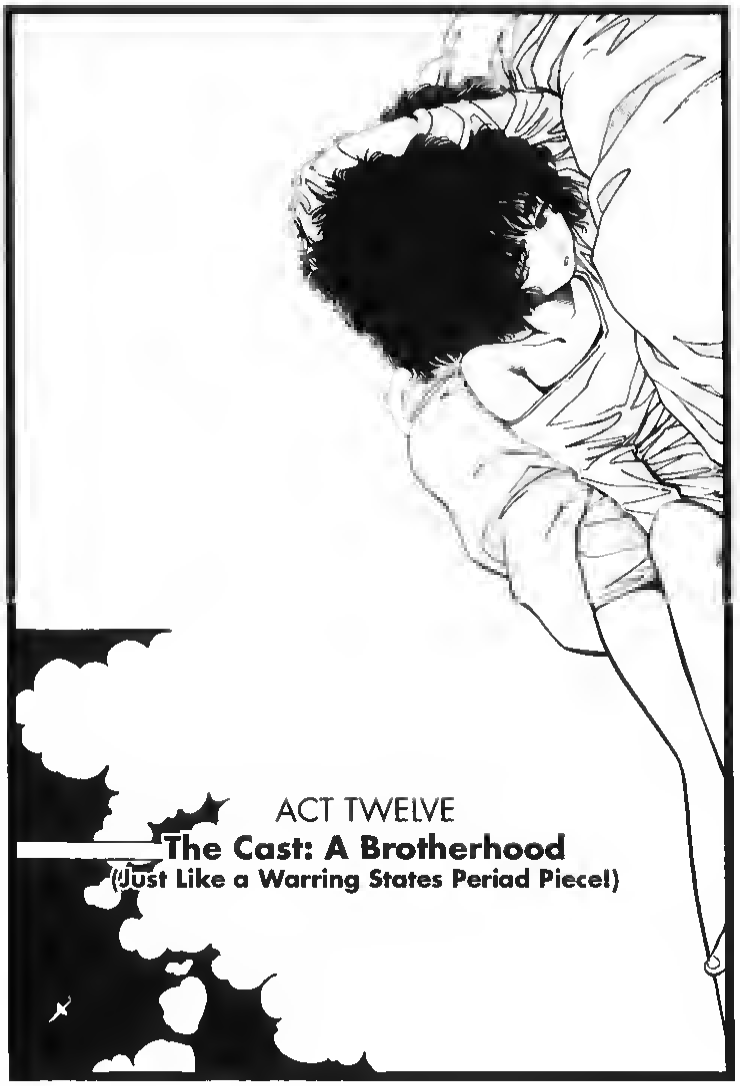
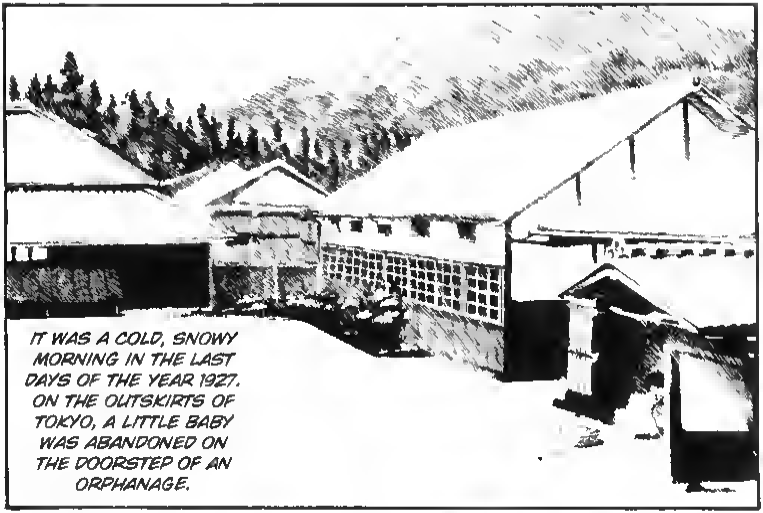


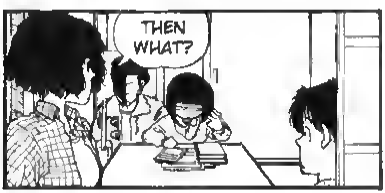
ACT TWELVE

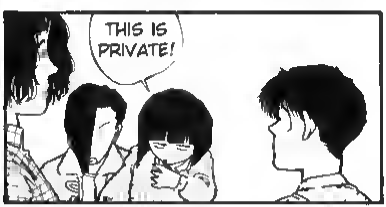
The Cast: A Brotherhood

(Just Like a Warring States Periad Piece!)

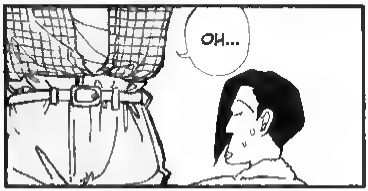

IT WAS A COLD, SNOWY MORNING IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE YEAR 1927. ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOKYO, A LITTLE BABY WAS ABANDONED ON THE DOORSTEP OF AN ORPHANAGE.

AND THAT'S HOW OUR STORY BEGINS ..


THEN WHAT?


THIS IS PRIVATE!

WHY!?
BECAUSE IT INVOLVES CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL CONCERNING SUEKICHI.
NOW THEN...
SIDE
...WHERE WAS I?
VIEW
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT? WHAT DOES THIS ORPHAN HAVE TO DO WITH ME AND TACHIMI?
YES, THAT IS HOW TADANORI TACHIMI'S LIFE BEGAN...
(HIS NAME WAS INCLUDED IN A LETTER PINNED TO HIS DIAPER.)
AT THE AGE OF SEVEN, TACHIMI WAS ADOPTED BY OUR OWN GREAT-GRANDFATHER DAIKICHI.



DAIKICHI HIMSELF FOUGHT HIS WAY OUT OF ABJECT POVERTY. HE FOUNDED SEVERAL COMPANIES, DEALT IN THE BEAN TRADE, AND BOUGHT UP SUGAR CANE THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE MADE HIS FORTUNE INVESTING IN RISKY VENTURES.

DAIKICHI TRUSTED NO ONE IN THE COMPETITIVE, CUT-THROAT WORLD OF BUSINESS, YET HE LONGED FOR A SUCCESSOR TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS.

TACHIMI SURPASSED DAIKICHI'S EXPECTATIONS, GRADUATING AS THE VALEDICTORIAN OF HIS SCHOOL IN LAW AND IMMEDIATELY GOING TO WORK FOR HIS ADOPTIVE FATHER.
DURING THE WAR, DAIKICHI WOULD DRAG HIS PHONE INTO THE AIR RAID SHELTER AND TRADE LAND AND FOREIGN STOCKS WHILE THE BOMBS RAINED DOWN. HE MADE A FORTUNE.
AFTER THE WAR, HE PROSPERED IN THE BLACK-MARKET ECONOMY OF DEVASTATED JAPAN.
BY THIS TIME, TACHIMI PROVED TO BE THE LOYAL DISCIPLE DAIKICHI ALWAYS DREAMED OF. I LEARNED ALL THIS FROM HIS DIARY AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, BY THE WAY.
UH-HUH -- AND WAS THERE A DOCUMENT LABELED "BIG COMIC SPIRITS" BY ANY CHANCE?
ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?
I'M NOT INTERESTED.

I JUSH DUNNO WHAT TO DO!
S-SUE MIGHT SEEM LIKE THE FROST QUEEN, BUT SHE'S JUSH LONELY. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO UNNERSTANSH HER. SHE ACTS KIND OF HOSTILE, B-BUT I KNOW HOW SHE REALLY FEELS DEEP INSIDE. WE'RE BOTH TOTALLY INTO EACH OTHER--WE JUSH CAN'T BREAK DOWN THE B-BARRIERS OF FRIENDSHIP.
...
NICE "PORTRAIT OF THE ORPHAN AS A YOUNG MAN"...
BUT WHAT THE HELL DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH HIM BEING MY FATHER?
DON'T RUSH ME! JUST LISTEN.
THE QUESTION IS, WHY IS TACHIMI SO INVOLVED WITH YOU? AND WHY DID AN OLD DISTANT RELATIVE CHOOSE YOU TO INHERIT HIS MONEY?
I HAVE THE ANSWER.
...INHERIT WHAT MONEY...?

JUST PUT THE MOVES ON HER!
B-BUT WE'RE UNDERAGE!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?
AND NOW WE FAST FORWARD TO 1967.
THIS IS WHERE THE PLOT THICKENS
DAIKICHI HAD TO DEPART FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA TO SETTLE A DISPUTE OVER THE PURCHASE OF A BATCH OF LAUAN WOOD.
THIS LEFT DAIKICHI'S FIFTH WIFE SUMI ALONE IN THE HOUSE WITH TACHIMI...
THAT NIGHT...
AREN'T YOU GETTING YOUR ERAS MIXED UP?
YOU'RE SAYING I DON'T KNOW MY HISTORY?

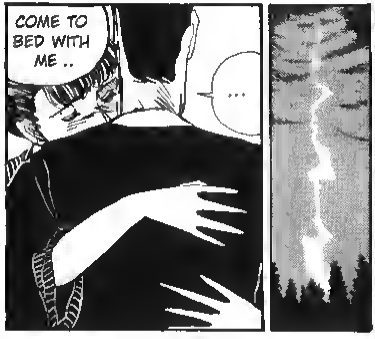
MS. HIBINO!!
ACK!
FROM THE DIARY, LETTERS, AND OTHER SOURCES...
...WE CAN DEDUCE THE FOLLOWING...
YOUR TEA IS READY.
OH, THANK YOU. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.
ACCORDING TO THE WEATHER REPORT, THE RAIN AND WIND ON THAT MID-MARCH NIGHT WAS RELENTLESS...

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FORMAL.
LET'S CHAT. IT'S THE MAID'S DAY OFF I'M LONELY
I'M SORRY
YES?
WORK, WORK, WORK. DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
YOU'VE BEEN SLAVING AWAY FOR HIM FOR YEARS, HAVEN'T YOU?
I OWE EVERY-THING TO HIM.
A FLASH OF LIGHT— AND THE PROMISED THUNDER!

THERE, THERE..
MAD-AME
DON'T CALL ME THAT! I WAS PURCHASED!
I'M... SO LONELY.
MAD-AME...
KISS ME..
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL TELL HIM YOU TRIED TO SEDUCE ME.
NO, HE DOESN'T. I'M JUST A DOLL TO HIM.. A PAINTING TO HANG ON THE WALL...
BUT... MR. TERA-YAMA LOVES YOU.
HE'S NEVER HOME. HE'S ALWAYS WORKING. HE JUST LEAVES ME HERE ALL BY MYSELF ALL THE TIME!

AH!

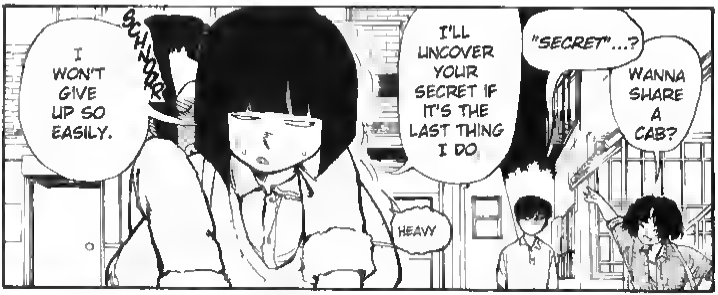
AND SO ON.

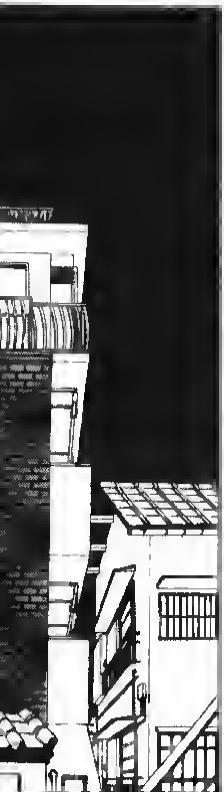

COME TO BED WITH ME ..
...

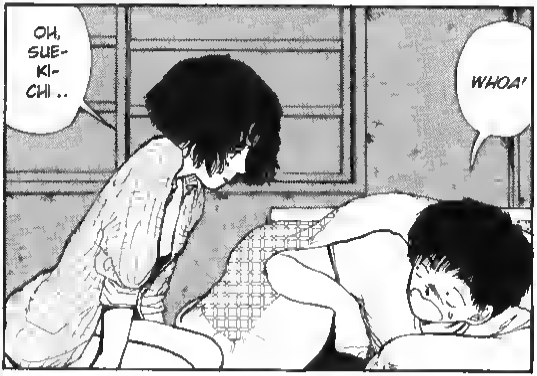
ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE NIGHT. AND NINE MONTHS LATER.. YOU WERE BORN
AFTERWARDS, TORMENTED BY SHAME, SUMI LEFT DAIKICHI AND VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE. TACHIMI WAS SO GUILT-RIDDEN HIMSELF THAT TO THIS DAY HE REMAINS LOYAL TO HIS ADOPTIVE FATHER.

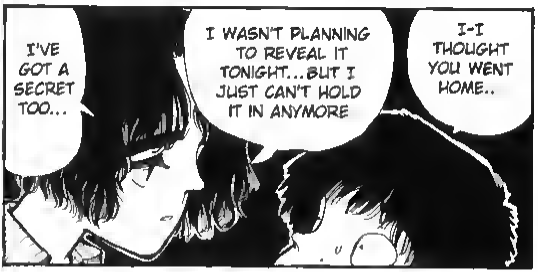
BUT HOW DOES THAT MAKE ME THAT BABY?
YOU'RE THE ONLY RELATIVE BORN IN THAT VICINITY.
MOTHERLESS, YOU WERE GIVEN TO PARENTS WHO COULDN'T CONCEIVE.
NOW DO YOU SEE WHY TACHIMI CAN'T KEEP HIS NOSE OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS?
BUT...I'VE GOT TWO OLDER BROTHERS!
BESIDES, YOUR STORY DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO INHERIT DAIKICHI'S ESTATE NOT THAT I AM, OF COURSE..
OUR GREAT GRAND-FATHER MARRIED SEVEN TIMES--HE HAD TONS OF CHILDREN!
Y-YOU THINK THAT UNDER-MINES MY CONCLUSION? FEH!
AND WE'VE GOT PHOTOS OF ME AS A NEWBORN TAKING MY FIRST BATH!

Y-YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST CRUSH THE FRUITS OF MY WEEKLONG INVESTIGATION LIKE A TIN CAN?
ABSOLUTELY.
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER ADULT WHO'S ROTTEN TO THE CORE! AND YOU TWO WERE DOING THE NASTY JUST A MINUTE AGO!
BRRZZZ
BRRZZZ
S-SO WHAT?
HELLO, AYA. I'M THROUGH. BRING HIM OVER.
WELL, ACTUALLY...
PLEASE BE MY BIG SISTER!! PLEASE!!
WHAK
I'M LONELY TOO, YOU KNOW!

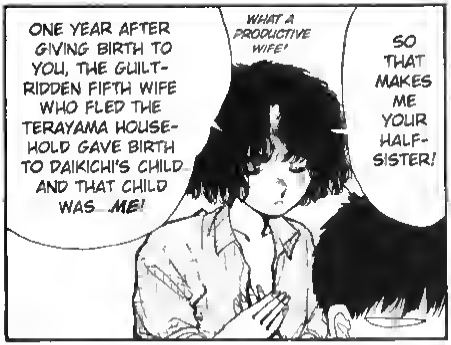

I WON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY.
GUHNNNN
I'LL UNCOVER YOUR SECRET IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO
HEAVY
"SECRET"...?
WANNA SHARE A CAB?



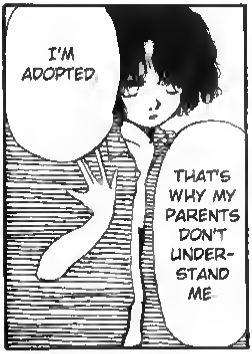

OH, SUE-KI-CHI..
WHOA!

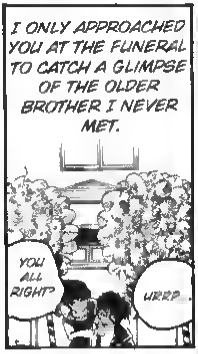

I'VE GOT A SECRET TOO...
I WASN'T PLANNING TO REVEAL IT TONIGHT...BUT I JUST CAN'T HOLD IT IN ANYMORE
I-I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME..

THE TRUTH IS...
..DAIKICHI IS MY FATHER, TOO!
WHA--!?

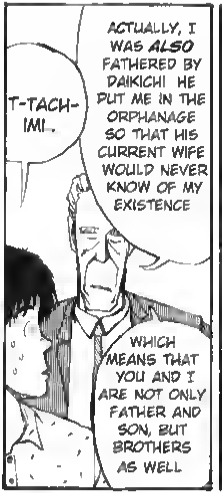

ONE YEAR AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO YOU, THE GUILT-RIDDEN FIFTH WIFE WHO FLED THE TERAYAMA HOUSEHOLD GAVE BIRTH TO DAIKICHI'S CHILD AND THAT CHILD WAS ME!
WHAT A PRODUCTIVE WIFE!
SO THAT MAKES ME YOUR HALF-SISTER!

BUT THEN...ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER, AND...
YOU MEAN I DID IT WITH MY SISTER?
I'VE GOT NO REGRETS AFTER ALL, I LOVE MY BIG BROTHER!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

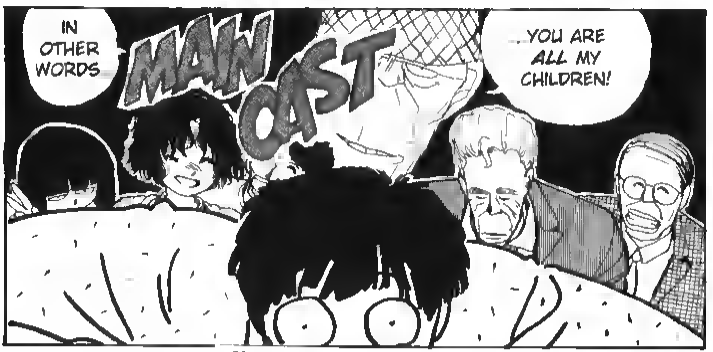

I'M ADOPTED
THAT'S WHY MY PARENTS DON'T UNDERSTAND ME


I ONLY APPROACHED YOU AT THE FUNERAL TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE OLDER BROTHER I NEVER MET.
YOU ALL RIGHT?
URRP

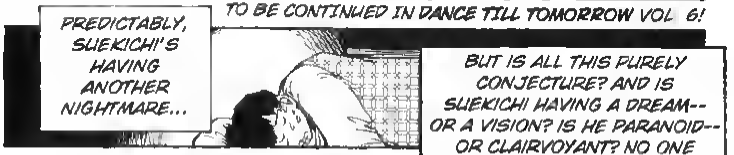
THE TRUTH IS, I'M ACTUALLY THE DAUGHTER OF DAIKICHI'S MISTRESS.
THAT'S WHY MY FAMILY INHERITED HIS HOUSE. AND THAT'S WHY I'M SO LONELY AND KEEP FOLLOWING YOU AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE.
MY BIG BRO!


T-TACHIMI..
ACTUALLY, I WAS ALSO FATHERED BY DAIKICHI. HE PUT ME IN THE ORPHANAGE SO THAT HIS CURRENT WIFE WOULD NEVER KNOW OF MY EXISTENCE
WHICH MEANS THAT YOU AND I ARE NOT ONLY FATHER AND SON, BUT BROTHERS AS WELL

ME, TOO, AM CHILD OF WIFE DAIKICHI HAVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
AND I'M ACTUALLY THE SON OF DAIKICHI'S FOURTH--OR IS IT FIFTH?--MISTRESS..
UH.
SO WE'RE BROTHERS TOO!
UM.



TO BE CONTINUED IN DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 6!


PREDICTABLY, SUEKICHI'S HAVING ANOTHER NIGHTMARE...
BUT IS ALL THIS PURELY CONJECTURE? AND IS SUEKICHI HAVING A DREAM--OR A VISION? IS HE PARANOID--OR CLAIRVOYANT? NO ONE KNOWS BUT THE WRITER.

"This is not the plot of a saucy new network melodrama but that of DANCE TILL TOMORROW...Yamamoto's work occupies the racier end of the manga spectrum."

—William Cohen, THE NEW YORKER

PULP GRAPHIC NOVELS—REAL MANGA FOR UNREAL TIMES!

College student Suekichi will inherit a stamp collection valued at 450 million yen ($4.5 million dollars!) from his great-grandpa's estate. If he graduates, gets married, establishes a career—all that good stuff. Unfortunately, he is easily distracted from his studies by a sexy young woman named Aya, even though he suspects she is only in love with his putative money. Suekichi's lawyer Mr. Tachimi, the manager of his trust fund, doesn't just suspect it—he's convinced! Tachimi and Aya's ex-husband Munakata have discovered their common interest in separating the sometimes loving (but always lustful) couple. They've hired a girl named Miyuki to seduce Suekichi away. As Miyuki gets more involved with Suekichi's theater troupe—and Suekichi—Aya manages to briefly sublimate her passions through a ticket drive, selling tickets to both the kindergarten class she teaches *and* the local yakuza. But Aya has overheard Tachimi revealing how Miyuki first came to his agency, wanting him to find her work as a prostitute in order to save her family home. Aya confronted Miyuki, who insisted that she never knew about Suekichi's inheritance, and that she has real feelings for him. Now Miyuki has told her employers that *Aya* knows. And now Suekichi has learned at a family reunion that his great-grandfather may have mistaken him in his will for his lil' cousin *Sue*.

***Naoki Yamamoto** made his comics debut in 1986 with the manga* **8 Times 8 Equals 64**. *One of the most famous erotic comics artists in Japan (releasing many works under the name* **Toh Moriyama**), *many of Yamamoto's manga have been adapted into anime and live-action film versions. His series* **We Are All Alive**, *the story of a Japanese businessman trapped in a Southeast Asian country during a coup d'etat, was released to U.S. theaters as* **Made In Japan** *by Viz/Tidepoint Films.*

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PULP GRAPHIC NOVEL

PUBLISHED BY VIZ

51595

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ISBN 1-59116-004-9

7 82009 09473 9

VOL 5
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